

BIG TECH: PROJECT 2025 & THE RNC PLATFORM

Key Points:

- **Trump's Platform Benefits Big Tech:** After the 2024 RNC platform was released, The Washington Post declared big tech, AI, and the crypto industry all “winners”, as Trump's platform was scarce on regulations, but chocked full of policies that benefit the various industries. The RNC platform made no mention of Section 230 reforms or big tech antitrust efforts, despite both having been priorities during Trump's term in the White House. The platform calls for boosting crypto and AI, which experts said could jeopardize consumers, stifle real innovation, and embolden “those emerging industries' worst actors.” The platform said they will oppose the creation of a central bank for digital currency, protect the right to mine Bitcoin, and end Democrats “Unamerican Crypto Crackdown.” This comes after Trump himself, who is scheduled to speak at a major Bitcoin conference later this month, has flipped his rhetoric on cryptocurrency, casting himself as an ally to the industry, earning him support and financial backing from multiple notable crypto figures. In addition to broadly calling for regulation, the RNC platform also called for repealing President Biden's AI executive order, which they said stifled innovation in the field. The Washington Post reported that tech industry lobbyists have long been plodding for a potential second Trump Administration, hoping to erode current regulations and “funnel money into AI grants and contracts instead.” Lastly, the platform voiced support for a “tech-adjacent priority”, enhancing relationships and investment in commercial space exploration, a move that would almost assuredly benefit Elon Musk, who in recent months distanced himself from potentially supporting President Biden's reelection.
- **Project 2025:** In addition to the RNC platform, the controversial Project 2025, crafted by numerous right-wing groups and Trump affiliates, outlines countless priorities for the next Republican President, including multiple planks that would benefit big tech and the cryptocurrency industry. Project 2025 calls for further lowering the corporate tax rate, from 21% to 18%, which had previously stood at 35% prior to the passage of Trump's TCJA (which the RNC platform also called to be made permanent.) Secondly, Project 2025 calls for abolishing the Federal Reserve, a move that experts said would allow for a free banking system that could allow for financial institutions to back their notes with bitcoin or another cryptocurrency. Project 2025 also includes a section on the FTC, where the authors open the door to removing antitrust authority from the agency or potentially abolishing it completely. The chapter also heaps praise on big tech companies and internet platforms for innovation “with little to no evidence of traditional consumer harm in the form of higher prices, reduced output, or a lack of innovation.” Additionally, Project 2025 would attack the National Labor Relations Board, weakening their “ability to protect workers trying to organize for good, middle-class jobs”, a move likely to be praised by big tech companies who have been adversarial to organized labor efforts. Lastly, Project 2025's chapter on environmental policies would shift the EPA's focus away from addressing climate change and once again withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement. By withdrawing from the agreement and reversing course on environmental regulations, major companies would be let off the hook without penalty, like Google & Amazon, who have backpaddled and are failing to live up to their prior climate commitments.

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How Big Tech Benefits From Trump’s Platform

WASHINGTON POST: THE RNC PLATFORM “HAS RELATIVELY LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT TECH REGULATION”

AFTER THE RNC PLATFORM WAS RELEASED, THE WASHINGTON POST SAID BIG TECH, CRYPTO AND AI WERE “WINNERS”

Washington Post: The 2024 RNC Platform “Has Relatively Little To Say About Tech Regulation.”
“For a party whose leaders, including former president Donald Trump, have often railed against Big Tech, the Republicans’ new platform has relatively little to say about tech regulation. And what it does say signals a laissez-faire if not outright cozy approach to emerging sectors that have drawn scrutiny from the Biden administration.” [Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Tech Winners From Trump’s 2024 Platform: Crypto, AI And Elon Musk.”**
[Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

THE PLATFORM MADE NO MENTION OF SECTION 230 OR ANTITRUST EFFORTS AGAINST BIG TECH COMPANIES

Washington Post: The 2024 RNC “Did Not Mention Section 230, The Tech Liability Shield That Trump Sought To Repeal As President, Or Antitrust Enforcement Against Tech Giants.” “The platform did not mention Section 230, the tech liability shield that Trump sought to repeal as president, or antitrust enforcement against tech giants, which ramped up under the Trump administration before the Biden administration adopted an even tougher line.” [Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

THE PLATFORM COMES ON THE HEELS OF BIG TECH BUNDLERS WARMING TO TRUMP’S BUSINESS RHETORIC

June 2024: Trump Fundraised In San Francisco With Tech Executives And Venture Capitalists Who “Following The Likes Of Elon Musk, Are Embracing Trump’s Bombastic But Business-Friendly Platforms In Rebuke Of President Joe Biden And Democrats’ Policies.” “Donald Trump’s visit to San Francisco this week highlights a rising power player in California: the nerd right. The former president traveled to San Francisco Thursday to court a small but vocal group of sympathetic tech entrepreneurs and venture capitalists who, following the likes of Elon Musk, are embracing Trump’s bombastic but business-friendly platforms in rebuke of President Joe Biden and Democrats’ policies.” [Politico, [6/7/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Why Trump Is Finding New Friends In Silicon Valley.”** [Politico, [6/7/24](#)]

THE RNC PLATFORM CALLS FOR BOOSTING CRYPTO AND AI AT THE EXPENSE OF CONSUMER PROTECTIONS & REAL INNOVATION

THE RNC PLATFORM CALLS FOR “BOOSTING” CRYPTO AND AI, WHICH CRITICS SAY COULD HARM CONSUMERS WHILE “ABETTING THOSE EMERGING INDUSTRIES’ WORST ACTORS AT THE EXPENSE OF REAL INNOVATION”

The 2024 Republican Platform “Calls For Boosting Rather Than Restricting Cryptocurrency And Artificial Intelligence.” “The 16-page platform, proposed by Trump and adopted by Republican delegates Monday ahead of next week’s Republican National Convention, calls for boosting rather than restricting cryptocurrency and artificial intelligence. ‘Republicans will pave the way for future Economic Greatness by leading the World in Emerging Industries,’ it promises.” [Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

- **Washington Post: Critics Attacked The RNC Platform, Saying The Policies Could “Lead To Harm For Consumers While Abetting Those Emerging Industries’ Worst Actors At The Expense Of Real Innovation.”** “Critics counter that the platform’s policies could lead to harm for consumers while abetting those emerging industries’ worst actors at the expense of real innovation.” [Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

CONSUMER ADVOCACY EXPERT SAID POLICY ROLL BACKS PROPOSED BY REPUBLICANS WOULD PUT AMERICANS AT RISK OF FRAUD, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN RAMPANT IN THE CRYPTO INDUSTRY

Washington Post: The President Of Consumer Advocacy Group Public Citizen, Robert Weissman, Said Crypto’s Prominent Placement In The Platform “Likely Reflects The Heavy Lobbying Effort By Cryptocurrency Interests.” “Boosting cryptocurrency is an odd plank for a major party, given the relatively minor role it plays in the broader economy, said Robert Weissman, president of the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen. He said its prominent place in the Republicans’ platform likely reflects the heavy lobbying effort by cryptocurrency interests, which he said is ‘obviously influencing politicians of both parties.’” [Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

- **Weissman Said The Consumer Protections That Republicans Promise To Roll Back Are Designed To Protect Americans From Fraud, ‘Which Have Been Prevalent In The Crypto Industry.’** “‘The enforcement standards currently being applied that Republicans propose to repeal or roll back are designed to protect Americans from scams, rip-offs and fraud, which has been prevalent in the crypto industry,’ Weissman said. ‘Effectively this should be read as, ‘We aim to promote more fraud on everyday Americans.’” [Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

THE RNC PLATFORM SAID THEY WOULD OPPOSE CREATING A CENTRAL BANK FOR DIGITAL CURRENCY AND WOULD “DEFEND THE RIGHT TO MINE BITCOIN”

5. Champion Innovation

Republicans will pave the way for future Economic Greatness by leading the World in Emerging Industries.

Crypto

Republicans will end Democrats' unlawful and unAmerican Crypto crackdown and oppose the creation of a Central Bank Digital Currency. We will defend the right to mine Bitcoin, and ensure every American has the right to self-custody of their Digital Assets, and transact free from Government Surveillance and Control.

[CNN, [7/9/24](#)]

CNN: THE RNC PLATFORM FRAMES THE "PURSUIT OF CRYPTOCURRENCY" AS A PERSONAL RIGHT

CNN: "Pursuit Of Cryptocurrency Is Portrayed Here As A Personal Right" And The RNC Pushed The Belief That "Fear Of Government Regulation Is Greater Than The Fear Of Untethered Technology Companies." "Pursuit of cryptocurrency is portrayed here as a personal right. Within this innovation section, with regard to both crypto and artificial intelligence — two developments that are changing how the world works — Republicans' fear of government regulation is greater than the fear of untethered technology companies." [CNN, [7/9/24](#)]

LEADERS IN THE TECH AND CRYPTO INDUSTRIES HAVE PRAISED TRUMP, PLEDGED MILLIONS TO SUPPORT HIS CANDIDACY, AFTER HE FLIPPED HIS POSITION ON THE ISSUE

Politico: During The 2024 Campaign, Trump Pitched Himself As An Ally To The Crypto Industry, "A Big Shift From The Criticism He Dishes Out In His First Term." "Donald Trump is making presidential history all over again: He's poised to be the first major party nominee to court cryptocurrency traders. It's leaving some Democrats feeling uneasy. Trump told crypto backers at Mar-a-Lago on Wednesday that they 'better vote' for him because of the way the Biden administration has unleashed a regulatory crackdown on the industry. [...] Trump's overt play for the crypto faithful is a big shift from the criticism he dished out in his first term, but it's not unexpected." [Politico, [5/10/24](#)]

Politico: "Trump's Direct Embrace Is A Landmark Moment For Crypto Firms That Have Undertaken An Intense Washington Lobbying Effort And Are Spending Tens Of Millions Of Dollars To Influence The 2024 Elections." "The GOP has become increasingly friendly toward bitcoin and other digital assets in recent years, while key Democrats remain at odds over whether to grant the industry legitimacy after a series of scandals. Trump's direct embrace is a landmark moment for crypto firms that have undertaken an intense Washington lobbying effort and are spending tens of millions of dollars to influence the 2024 elections." [Politico, [5/10/24](#)]

• **HEADLINE: "Crypto Is Trump's New Weapon Against Biden."** [Politico, [5/10/24](#)]

BlockChain Association CEO Called Trump's Flip A "Sea Change In The Importance Of Digital Assets This Election Cycle." "President Trump's remarks signal a sea change in the importance of digital assets this election cycle," said Kristin Smith, CEO of the Blockchain Association, a top crypto industry lobbying group." [Politico, [5/10/24](#)]

Chamath Palihapitiya, A Major Tech Investor And Early Facebook Executive Praised Trump For His Embrace Of Crypto. "It's not surprising that business leaders would favor policies that benefit their bottom lines, but this new faction is brasher than the typical boardroom set. As self-styled iconoclasts, they loudly rebel against California's liberal tradition. Backing Trump helps scratch that contrarian itch. The \$300,000-per-person fundraiser, hosted at billionaire venture capitalist David Sacks' Pacific Heights mansion, included many of the Silicon Valley elite that have bristled at Biden's approach to antitrust enforcement, artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency. Co-host Chamath Palihapitiya, an early Facebook executive turned tech investor who has long touted the digital currency sector, last week on his podcast spoke positively about the former president. The \$300,000-per-person fundraiser, hosted at billionaire venture capitalist David Sacks' Pacific Heights mansion, included many of the Silicon Valley elite that

have bristled at Biden's approach to antitrust enforcement, artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency. Co host Chamath Palihapitiya, an early Facebook executive turned tech investor who has long touted the digital currency sector, last week on his podcast spoke positively about the former president. 'President Trump in the last few weeks has become incredibly pro-crypto,' he said. A key difference between this newer cohort and the ultra-wealthy Bay Area class that has traditionally tried to shape business regulation is their willingness to freelance on other issues." [Politico, [6/7/24](#)]

Multiple Major Crypto Industry Figures Have Given Millions To Backing Trump, Including The Winklevoss Twins, Founders Of The Crypto Company Gemini, And Kraken CEO Jesse Powell, Citing The Biden Administration's Approach To The Industry. "The Winklevoss twins, founders of the cryptocurrency company Gemini, each donated 15.47 Bitcoin or \$1 million in June to support Donald Trump's campaign. Tyler Winklevoss posted on X that the Democratic administration of President Biden has 'openly declared war on crypto,' while Cameron Winklevoss wrote that Trump is 'pro-Bitcoin, pro crypto, and pro-business.' Jesse Powell, the CEO of cryptocurrency exchange Kraken, has donated \$1 million to Trump's campaign. He wrote that the Biden administration has allowed a 'campaign of unchecked regulation by enforcement.'" [Quartz, [7/11/24](#)]

JULY 2024: FOUNDERS OF ANDREESSEN HOROWITZ ANNOUNCED THEY WOULD BE BACKING TRUMP, REPORTS CITING THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S "TECH AGENDA" AS THE REASON FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Venture Capitalists Marc Andreessen And Ben Horowitz Announced They Would Be Making Significant Donations To Support Donald Trump's Presidential Campaign. "Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz have told employees of their venture firm, Andreessen Horowitz, that they plan to make significant donations to political action committees supporting Donald Trump's campaign for president, CNBC has confirmed." [CNBC, [7/16/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Andreessen Horowitz Founders Plan To Donate To Pro-Trump Super PAC."**
[CNBC, [7/16/24](#)]

CNBC Reported That Marc Andreessen And Ben Horowitz Would Be Backing Trump Because Of His "Planned Tech Agenda." "The Information first reported on the expected donations, which are based on Trump's planned tech agenda. The prominent investors join others in tech who have donated to support Trump. Palantir co-founder Joe Lonsdale and crypto billionaires Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss contributed to America PAC, which was formed recently. Tesla CEO Elon Musk has also reportedly said he is planning to pledge about \$45 million a month to the super PAC. And venture capitalist David Sacks, who spoke at the opening night of the Republican National Convention on Monday, co-hosted a fundraiser for Trump in San Francisco." [CNBC, [7/16/24](#)]

VOX: SILLICON VALLEY DOESN'T "WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE IN THE OPERATION OF THEIR BUSINESSES, SOME SEE BIDEN ADMIN REGULATION AS OVERREACH

Vox: Some Donors In Silicon Valley Have Viewed Biden's Regulation Of The Industry As Overreach. "That suggests Silicon Valley's political views are still largely consistent with a 2017 study indicating that wealthy technologists supported many liberal policies: redistribution of wealth, abortion, gay rights, immigration, and more. But there was one issue on which, even in 2017, they chafed with Democrats: They didn't want the government to interfere in the operation of their businesses. And that might be driving at least some of the support for Trump among Silicon Valley elites this election cycle. President Joe Biden has taken a hardline approach against Big Tech that might be perceived by some donors as overreach. The administration has filed sweeping antitrust lawsuits against four major tech companies: Apple, Google (now known as Alphabet), Meta, and Amazon." [Vox, [7/17/24](#)]

HEADLINE: "Why Tech Titans Are Turning Toward Trump." [Vox, [7/17/24](#)]

THE RNC PLATFORM CALLED FOR REPEALING BIDEN'S "DANGEROUS EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT HINDERS AI INNOVATION"

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

We will repeal Joe Biden's dangerous Executive Order that hinders AI Innovation, and imposes Radical Leftwing ideas on the development of this technology. In its place, Republicans support AI Development rooted in Free Speech and Human Flourishing.

[CNN, [7/9/24](#)]

THE PLATFORM BROADLY CALLS FOR CUTTING “BURDENSOME REGULATIONS”

3. Cut Costly and Burdensome Regulations

Republicans will reinstate President Trump's Deregulation Policies, which saved Americans \$11,000 per household, and end Democrats' regulatory onslaught that disproportionately harms low- and middle-income households.

[CNN, [7/9/24](#)]

TECH LOBBYISTS HAVE BEEN “LAYING THE GROUNDWORK” FOR A FUTURE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION, AIMING TO DISMANTLE BIDEN ERA REGULATIONS ON THE INDUSTRY

The Washington Post Reported That Tech Lobbying Groups Had “Been Laying The Groundwork For A Possible Future Trump Administration To Dismantle” Biden Era AI Regulations “And Funnel Money Into AI Grants And Contracts Instead.” “We will repeal Joe Biden's dangerous Executive Order that hinders AI Innovation, and imposes Radical Leftwing ideas on the development of this technology,” the platform reads. ‘In its place, Republicans support AI Development rooted in Free Speech and Human Flourishing.’ The sweeping order, which Biden signed in October 2023, placed new safety obligations on AI developers and called on federal agencies to mitigate the technology's risks while spurring its responsible development. My colleagues Elizabeth Dwoskin, Drew Harwell and Cat Zakrzewski reported in May that an influential tech lobbying group had been laying the groundwork for a possible future Trump administration to dismantle those rules and funnel money into AI grants and contracts instead.”

[Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

The Tech Lobbying Effort That Helped Push Legislation For The Forced Sale Of Tiktok Has Also Worked On “Prepping An Executive Order Geared For A Possible Future Trump Presidency That Would Dismantle The Biden Administration's Rules On Artificial Intelligence.” “Two years ago, Jacob Helberg, a little-known tech industry adviser, convened a dinner between lawmakers and a small group of Silicon Valley insiders on Washington's Embassy Row. The informal supper club, which would eventually receive funding from billionaire investor Peter Thiel's venture firm, was not distinctive for its wealth or clout — the people involved had plenty of both — but for its members' eagerness to eschew the industry's long-held ideals of boundaryless technology for an alternative vision rooted in American nationalism and an anti-China might. Today, that group has turned into one of the most powerful lobbying forces for the technology industry in Washington, helping draft and promote one of the country's only pieces of tech legislation in decades: a law signed by President Biden calling for the forced sale or ban of TikTok, the video app owned by the China-based company ByteDance and used by some 170 million in the United States. Fresh off that win, the group's leader, Helberg, is aiming to expand its mission. With associates, he is prepping an executive order geared for a possible future Trump presidency that would dismantle the Biden administration's rules on artificial intelligence, according to people familiar with its dealings who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private discussions. Instead, they will push government to pour money into AI grants and contracts that could benefit many in the group.”

[Washington Post, [5/1/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “The Tech Billionaires Who Helped Ban TikTok Want To Write AI Rules For Trump.”** [Washington Post, [5/1/24](#)]

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORM SAID IT SUPPORTED AI DEVELOPMENT “ROOTED IN FREE SPEECH”

The RNC Platform Said They Backed “AI Development Rooted In Free Speech And Human Flourishing.” “We will repeal Joe Biden's dangerous Executive Order that hinders AI Innovation, and

imposes Radical Leftwing ideas on the development of this technology,' the platform reads. 'In its place, Republicans support AI Development rooted in Free Speech and Human Flourishing.'" [Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

THE RNC PLATFORM CALLS FOR DISMANTLING CENSORSHIP & PROTECTING FREE SPEECH ONLINE

2. Republicans Will Dismantle Censorship & Protect Free Speech

We will ban the Federal Government from colluding with anyone to censor Lawful Speech, defund institutions engaged in censorship, and hold accountable all bureaucrats involved with illegal censoring. We will protect Free Speech online.

[CNN, [7/9/24](#)]

BANKING: PROJECT 2025 WOULD ABOLISH THE FEDERAL RESERVE, OPENING THE DOOR FOR BANKS TO BACK THEIR NOTES WITH CRYPTO

PROJECT 2025 WOULD ABOLISH THE FEDERAL RESERVE AND ALLOW FOR A FREE BANKING SYSTEM, EMBOLDENING BITCOIN BACKERS

Forbes: Project 2025 Called For Abolishing The Federal Reserve And Creating A "Free Banking" System "Or A Commodity-Backed Replacement For The U.S. Dollar—With Some Increasingly Confident Bitcoin Would Be More Attractive Than Gold." "Project 2025—a radical policy plan created by the right-wing Heritage Foundation think tank—has spread like wildfire in Washington D.C., fanned by the ailing Biden administration. [...] The Project 2025 plan, detailed in a mammoth 920-page document that recommends huge overhauls of every government department, would abolish the Federal Reserve and create a system of so-called free banking or a commodity-backed replacement for the U.S. dollar—with some increasingly confident bitcoin would be more attractive than gold. 'Under free banking, banks typically issue liabilities (for example, checking accounts) denominated in dollars and backed by a valuable commodity,' Paul Winfree, who served in Trump's 2017 to 2021 administration, wrote in the Project 2025 plan." [Forbes, [7/10/11](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Project 2025 Has Primed Bitcoin For A \$16 Trillion Price Showdown With Gold."** [Forbes, [7/10/11](#)]

THE FREE BANKING MODEL "LEAVES THE DOOR OPEN FOR BANKS TO BACK THEIR NOTES WITH BITCOIN OR ANOTHER CRYPTOCURRENCY"

Forbes: "The Open-Ended Nature Of Free Banking Leaves The Door Open For Banks To Back Their Notes With Bitcoin Or Another Cryptocurrency." "The open-ended nature of free banking leaves the door open for banks to back their notes with bitcoin or another cryptocurrency, as 'free banking leads to stable and sound currencies and strong financial systems because customers will avoid the riskier issuers, driving them out of the market,' Winfree wrote. 'Meanwhile, a commodity-backed dollar would see the Fed back the notes it issues with 'some hard asset like gold,' Winfree wrote, in a system designed 'to rein in spending and inflation lest their gold reserves become depleted.'" [Forbes, [7/10/11](#)]

POLITICO: CRYPTO "HAS GAINED SUPPORT FROM POLITICIANS ON THE RIGHT WHO TOUT IT AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE MAINSTREAM FINANCIAL SYSTEM"

Politico: "Crypto Has Gained Support From Politicians On The Right Who Tout It As An Alternative To The Mainstream Financial System." "Crypto has gained support from politicians on the right who tout it as an alternative to the mainstream financial system. The Paradigm poll found earlier this year that crypto owners favor Trump over Biden, 48 percent to 39 percent, with 13 percent undecided." [Politico, [5/10/24](#)]

JULY 2027: TRUMP IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK AT A NATIONAL BITCOIN CONFERENCE IN NASHVILLE

July 2024: Donald Trump Announced That He Would Speak At A Bitcoin Conference In Nashville, Tennessee. “The presumptive Republican presidential nominee, Donald Trump, is scheduled to speak at the upcoming Bitcoin Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, later this month. While this would be the first time a presidential candidate would attend the conference, it has sparked a debate about whether Trump will receive support from the crypto community in the upcoming election.” [Quartz, [7/11/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Donald Trump Will Speak At The Bitcoin Conference. A Former Advisor To Biden Says That’s A Smart Move.”** [Quartz, [7/11/24](#)]

CORPORATE TAX RATES: PROJECT 2025 CALLS FOR FURTHER SLASHING THE TAXES OF THE NATION’S LARGEST COMPANIES

PROJECT 2025 WOULD CONTINUE TRUMP’S WORK OF LOWERING THE CORPORATE TAX RATE

Project 2025 Calls For Further Reducing The Corporate Tax Rate From 21% To 18%, Roughly Half Of The 35% Rate That Stood Prior To Trump’s Tax Cuts And Jobs Act. [CBS News, [7/11/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Project 2025 Would Overhaul The U.S. Tax System. Here's How It Could Impact You.”** [CBS News, [7/11/24](#)]

Among other tax and economic changes proposed by Project 2025:

- **Cutting the corporate tax rate to 18% from its current 21%, which was enacted in 2017's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Prior to the TCJA, the corporate tax rate stood at 35%.**

[CBS News, [7/11/24](#)]

THE RNC PLATFORM CALLED FOR MAKING THE TRUMP TAX CUTS PERMANENT

2. Make Trump Tax Cuts Permanent and No Tax on Tips

Republicans will make permanent the provisions of the Trump Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that doubled the standard deduction, expanded the Child Tax Credit, and spurred Economic Growth for all Americans. We will eliminate Taxes on Tips for millions of Restaurant and Hospitality Workers, and pursue additional Tax Cuts.

[CNN, [7/9/24](#)]

THE REPUBLICAN PLATFORM CONTAINED COMMERCIAL SPACE EXPLORATION, A “TECH-ADJACENT PRIORITY” THAT WOULD LIKELY BENEFIT ELON MUSK

ELON MUSK WOULD BE THE LIKELY BENEFICIARY OF A REPUBLICAN PUSH TO INCREASE COMMERCIAL SPACE EXPLORATION

Washington Post: “The GOP’s Platform Includes One More Tech-Adjacent Priority: Bolstering Commercial Space Exploration” Which Would Likely Benefit Elon Musk, Who In Recent Months Said He Was “Leaning Away From Biden.” “The GOP’s platform includes one more tech-adjacent priority: Bolstering commercial space exploration. ‘Under Republican Leadership, the United States will

create a robust Manufacturing Industry in Near Earth Orbit, send American Astronauts back to the Moon, and onward to Mars, and enhance partnerships with the rapidly expanding Commercial Space sector to revolutionize our ability to access, live in, and develop assets in Space,' the document says. A prime beneficiary of government investment in commercial space exploration would likely be Elon Musk, the billionaire who controls SpaceX, Tesla and X. In recent years, Musk has been increasingly vocal about his conservative views, and in 2022 he urged his massive following on X to vote Republican in the midterm elections. He has not endorsed a candidate for president, though he said after an impromptu March meeting with Trump that he's 'leaning away from Biden.'" [Washington Post, [7/10/24](#)]

THE RNC PLATFORM CALLED FOR CREATING A "ROBUST MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN NEAR EARTH ORBIT" AND "ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE RAPIDLY EXPANDING COMMERCIAL SPACE SECTOR"

Expanding Freedom, Prosperity and Safety in Space

Under Republican Leadership, the United States will create a robust Manufacturing Industry in Near Earth Orbit, send American Astronauts back to the Moon, and onward to Mars, and enhance partnerships with the rapidly expanding Commercial Space sector to revolutionize our ability to access, live in, and develop assets in Space.

[CNN, [7/9/24](#)]

THE WEEK AFTER THE RNC PLATFORM WAS RELEASED, MUSK PLEDGED TO SPEND TENS OF MILLIONS A MONTH BACKING A PRO-TRUMP PAC

July 2024: Elon Musk Pledged To Spend "\$45 Million A Month To A Newly Formed Super PAC Backing Former President Donald Trump's White House Bid." "Elon Musk has said he is planning to pledge about \$45 million a month to a newly formed super PAC backing former President Donald Trump's White House bid, The Wall Street Journal reported Monday, citing people familiar with the matter. Musk had not given any money to that group, called America PAC, as of the end of June, according to a quarterly financial filing submitted to the Federal Election Commission on Monday evening. It is unclear if he has donated in July. Emails to Musk's associates were not immediately returned late Monday." [CNBC, [7/15/24](#)]

• **HEADLINE: "Elon Musk Plans To Give \$45 Million A Month To Pro-Trump Super PAC."**

[CNBC, [7/15/24](#)]

PROJECT 2025 OPENS THE DOOR FOR ABOLISHING THE FTC

PROJECT 2025 QUESTIONS IF "THE FTC ENFORCE ANTITRUST—OR EVEN CONTINUE TO EXIST?"

Project 2025 Suggested Removing Antitrust Enforcement From The FTC And Said That Due To The President Not Being Able To Remove FTC Commissioners "At Will" Many "Conservatives Have Long Believed In Either Ending Law Enforcement Activities Of Independent Agencies Or Ending Their Independent Status." "Some conservatives think that antitrust enforcement should be invested solely in the Department of Justice (DOJ). The FTC's commissioners are not removable at will by the President, which many quite reasonably believe violates the Vesting Clause of Article II of the Constitution; it is for this reason that conservatives have long believed in either ending law enforcement activities of independent agencies or ending their independent status." [Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

THE FTC CHAPTER SAID THE RULING THAT UPHELD AGENCY INDEPENDENCE "SEEMS RIPE FOR REVISITING"

Project 2025: "The Supreme Court Ruling In Humphrey's Executor Upholding Agency Independence Seems Ripe For Revisiting—And Perhaps Sooner Than Later." "The Supreme Court

ruling in Humphrey's Executor upholding agency independence seems ripe for revisiting—and perhaps sooner than later. Others think that the post–New Deal expansion of the administrative state has had baleful effects upon our society and earnestly share the hope that it can be greatly curtailed if not eliminated—or that its authority can be returned to the states and other democratically accountable political institutions.” [Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

- **Project 2025: “Unless Conservatives Take A Firm Hand To The Bureaucracy And Marshal Its Power To Defend A Freedom-Promoting Agenda, Nothing Will Stop The Bureaucracy’s Anti–Free Market, Leftist March.”** “But, until there is a return to a constitutional structure that the Founding Fathers would have recognized and a massive shrinking of the administrative state, conservatives cannot unilaterally disarm and fail to use the power of government to further a conservative agenda. As experience shows, the administrative state will grow and further its own agenda, often at odds with conservative thought, even under conservative leadership. Unless conservatives take a firm hand to the bureaucracy and marshal its power to defend a freedom promoting agenda, nothing will stop the bureaucracy’s anti–free market, leftist march.” [Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

PROJECT 2025 ATTACKED THE IDEA OF ADDING MORE FTC OFFICES, SAYING IT RAN COUNTER TO DECADES OF CONSERVATIVE OPINION THAT BELIEVED “NEW DEAL AGENCIES AND SUBSEQUENT GOVERNMENT BODIES SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN CREATED IN THE FIRST PLACE”

While Project 2025 Floated The Idea Of The FTC Returning Authority To Regional Offices, As They Were “Substantially More In Touch With Local Issues”, The Chapter Also Said Increasing The FTC In States Was “Counter To Decades Of Conservative Opinion That Holds That New Deal Agencies And Subsequent Government Bodies Should Never Have Been Created In The First Place.” “As is evidenced by a relentless focus on bringing Big Tech lawsuits, state attorneys general (AGs) are far more responsive to their constituents than is the FTC. Such a ‘boots on the ground’ approach would benefit the FTC enormously. Practically, this would mean establishing a distinct role in the FTC Chairman’s office focused on state AG cooperation and inviting state AGs to Washington, D.C., to discuss enforcement policy in key sectors under the FTC’s jurisdiction: Big Tech, hospital mergers, supermarket mergers, and so forth. FTC regional offices are substantially more in touch with local issues. Over the past few decades, the reach and influence of regional offices has shrunk dramatically. The FTC should consider returning authority to these offices. Some conservatives however are less supportive of this idea. Conservative enthusiasm for the idea of adding regional FTC offices to the states is a break from the majority conservative position. Endorsing the federal government as a premier job creator runs counter to decades of conservative opinion that holds that New Deal agencies and subsequent government bodies should never have been created in the first place, and that their red tape and interference is a dominant cause of economic inefficacy.” [Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

PROJECT 2025 SAID INCREASING THE NUMBER OF FTC REGIONAL OFFICES WOULD “TIE MIDDLE AMERICA INEXTRICABLY TO BIG PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT”

Project 2025 On Increasing FTC Regional Offices: “FTC Outposts Would Tie Middle America Inextricably To Big Progressive Government, Remaking The Heartland In Washington’s Image. It Would Be Anything But Decentralization; Americans Need Policy Makers To Discipline The Arrogance That Prevails Inside The Beltway, Not Spread It.” “Republicans used to seethe when Democrats tried to move federal offices into the states. In the early 1990s, House Minority Whip Newt Gingrich fumed about Senator Robert Byrd’s campaign to transfer certain national intelligence facilities to West Virginia, calling it a ‘pure abuse of power.’ Some contributors to this chapter would remind conservatives that the unseen mechanics of redistribution—by which taxpayer money paid to state employees is taken from taxpayers nationwide—is a drag on the economy of the entire country. Many conservatives fear that it would be impossible to uproot or even prune back a bureaucracy the seeds of which have been planted in every state. State legislators would struggle to slash funding from agencies that employ and generously pay thousands of their constituents. FTC outposts would tie middle America inextricably to big progressive government, remaking the heartland in Washington’s image. It would be anything but decentralization; Americans need policy makers to discipline the arrogance that prevails

inside the Beltway, not spread it. It would be: Swamp 2.0': just as deep and many times as wide." [Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

PROJECT 2025 CALLED FOR A "RECALIBRATION" OF ANTITRUST & CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS

CONCLUSION

Conservative approaches to antitrust and consumer protection continue to trust markets, not government, to give people what they want and provide the prosperity and material resources Americans need for flourishing, productive, and meaningful lives. At the same time, conservatives cannot be blind to certain developments in the American economy that appear to make government-private sector collusion more likely, threaten vital democratic institutions, such as free speech, and threaten the happiness and mental well-being of many Americans, particularly children. Many, but not all, conservatives believe that these developments may warrant the FTC's making a careful recalibration of certain aspects of antitrust and consumer protection law and enforcement.

[Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

THE CHAPTER CITED THE WORK OF ROBERT BORK AND HIS DEFENSE OF CORPORATE "BIGNESS"

Project 2025 On Bork: "The Practical Contribution Of His Work Was To Put Consumer Welfare At The Heart Of Competition Law" And Cited His Defense Of Corporate "Bigness." "Others in the conservative movement have maintained for numerous decades that an economic justification is the only coherent approach to the antitrust laws. Many view the first 90 years of U.S. antitrust policy as unprincipled in its approach, often resulting in policies that, by trying to protect smaller competitors, ended up raising prices for consumers. Judge Robert Bork in his influential book *The Antitrust Paradox* found economic justifications for previously denounced behavior including small horizontal mergers, all vertical and conglomerate mergers, vertical price maintenance and market division agreements, tying arrangements, exclusive dealings and requirements contracts, 'predatory' price cutting, and price 'discrimination.' Bork also defended corporate 'bigness' if it came about through internal growth or acceptable mergers. He also defended agreements between competitors on prices, territories, refusals to deal, and other 'suppressions of rivalry' that are 'ancillary' to some economic efficiency. The practical contribution of his work was to put consumer welfare at the heart of competition law."

PROJECT 2025 PUSHED BACK AGAINST AGE VERIFICATION REGULATIONS ON CHILDREN'S INTERNET ACCESS

In addition, some of the methods used to regulate children's internet access pose the risk of unintended harms. For instance, age verification regulations would inevitably increase the amount of data collection involved, increasing privacy concerns. Users would have to submit to platforms proof of their age, which raises the risks of data breach or illegitimate data usage by the platforms or bad actors. Limited-government conservatives would prefer the FTC play an educational role instead. That might include best practices or educational programs to empower parents online.

[Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

PROJECT 2025 SAID INTERNET PLATFORMS "HAVE NOT CREATED CONSUMER PRICE INCREASES"

Project 2025: "Internet Platforms Have Not Created Consumer Price Increases." "Third, internet platforms have not created consumer price increases, but of course they provide free services—and this creates a challenge for antitrust regulation. For decades, antitrust economics has been focused on a paradigm in which firm and consumer behavior are modeled as functions of price and output as the

primary variables. It may very well be that these models do not fully capture the effect of technologies that enable increasing returns to scale based on data, such as digital platforms. This possibility cannot be lightly discounted, considering the tremendous market power of these firms and their market cap, with the top five firms of the U.S. market (Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Tesla, and Alphabet) responsible for 23.5 percent of the market cap of the S&P 500 index in early December 2021.” [Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

PROJECT 2025 PRAISED BIG TECH COMPANIES FOR INNOVATION “WITH LITTLE TO NO EVIDENCE OF TRADITIONAL CONSUMER HARM IN THE FORM OF HIGHER PRICES, REDUCED OUTPUT, OR A LACK OF INNOVATION”

Big Tech and Antitrust. The large internet platforms have transformed the U.S. economy, streamlining consumer purchases, networking billions of people, and altering long-established business practices. Despite their enormous size, they have avoided significant antitrust liability or prosecution. The reasons for this are not entirely clear.

It may be because these platforms have been incredibly innovative and have generated tremendous efficiencies for our society, with little to no evidence of traditional consumer harm in the form of higher prices, reduced output, or a lack of innovation. Also, Americans report a high level of satisfaction in and trust regarding these companies.

[Project 2025, Chapter 30: Federal Trade Commission, Accessed [7/16/24](#)]

ORGANIZED LABOR WOULD BE THREATENED BY PROJECT 2025

PROJECT 2025 CALLED FOR FIRING THE NLRB’S GENERAL COUNSEL, “WHICH WOULD THREATEN” THE BOARD’S ABILITY “TO PROTECT WORKERS TRYING TO ORGANIZE FOR GOOD, MIDDLE-CLASS JOBS”

CAP: “Project 2025 Recommends Firing The General Counsel ‘On Day One’ As Part Of Its Plans To Upend Much Of The Civil Service, Which Would Threaten The NLRB’s Ability To Protect Workers Trying To Organize For Good, Middle-Class Jobs.” “Even though the current state of federal labor law—as well as years of effective budget cuts—have reduced the NLRB’s ability to go after lawbreakers, the agency has increased its efforts to investigate and punish corporations that break the law and to institute new rules to better protect workers. Under the leadership of General Counsel Jennifer Abruzzo, appointed with the specific charge to ‘help rebuild America’s middle class,’ the agency’s enforcement arm has demonstrated increased willingness to go after lawbreakers. The NLRB achieved more reinstatement offers for workers illegally fired for protected organizing activity in the general counsel’s first year on the job than during the entire previous administration: In just three years, it brought a total of 8,285 offers of reinstatement for workers fired for legally protected activity such as attempting to form a union or discussing workplace issues, a 54 percent increase over the previous administration. In spite of this success, Project 2025 recommends firing the general counsel ‘on Day One’ as part of its plans to upend much of the civil service, which would threaten the NLRB’s ability to protect workers trying to organize for good, middle-class jobs.” [Center for American Progress, [6/20/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Project 2025 Would Undo The NLRB’s Progress On Protecting Workers’ Right To Organize.”** [Center for American Progress, [6/20/24](#)]

CAP: PROJECT 2025 CALLS FOR “DOUBLING DOWN ON RULES THAT MAKE IT HARDER FOR WORKERS TO UNIONIZE” GIVING MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO “ANTI-UNION CORPORATIONS”

CAP: “Project 2025 Recommends Doubling Down On Rules That Make It Harder For Workers To Unionize. These Rules Gave Anti-Union Corporations More Opportunities To Fight Workers’ Organizing Campaigns And Reduce The Likelihood Of Union Victory.” “During the previous administration, the NLRB issued complicated rules that slowed the election process for workers—and Project 2025 recommends doubling down on rules that make it harder for workers to unionize. These rules gave anti-union corporations more opportunities to fight workers’ organizing campaigns and reduce the likelihood of union victory. In addition, previous NLRB appointees adopted rules that made it easier for large corporations to escape liability for labor violations and avoid bargaining obligations by relying on smaller companies—such as franchisees, temporary staffing agencies, and labor contractors—to supply their labor forces, which the NLRB has taken steps to prevent. Project 2025 recommends reversing these steps, which would make it more difficult for workers to organize unions.”

BIG TECH COMPANIES HAVE WORKED AGAINST ORGANIZED LABOR

New York Times: Apple Was Accused Of Firing Workers Who Were Actively Engaged In Union Organizing. “After working for more than seven years at an Apple store in Kansas City, Mo., Gemma Wyatt ran into trouble. Last year, she said, managers disciplined her for clocking in late a few times over the previous several weeks. Then, in February, Apple fired her after she missed a store meeting because she was sick but failed to notify managers soon enough, according to Ms. Wyatt. She was at least the fifth Apple employee the store had fired since this fall, all of whom had been active in union organizing there. The terminations came after two other Apple stores voted to unionize. ‘It took us time to realize they weren’t firing us just because of time and attendance,’ said Ms. Wyatt, who is part of a charge filed with the National Labor Relations Board in March accusing Apple of unfair labor practices. Apple said it had not disciplined or fired any workers in retaliation for union activity. ‘We strongly deny these claims and look forward to providing the full set of facts to the N.L.R.B.,’ a spokeswoman said. A pattern of similar worker accusations — and corporate denials — has arisen at Starbucks, Trader Joe’s and REI as retail workers have sought to form unions in the past two years.” [New York Times, [5/22/23](#)]

Companies Are Taking a Harder Line on Union Organizers, Workers Say

Apple, Starbucks, Trader Joe’s and REI are accused of targeting union supporters after organizing efforts gained traction, charges the companies deny.

[New York Times, [5/22/23](#)]

Reuters: A “Playbook Among Tech Companies” Emerged As The Companies Worked To Counter Organizing Efforts, Including “Warn Employees About The Impact A Union Would Have On The Startup’s Prospects And, In Particular, Its Ability To Raise Funds. Remind Workers Of Their Privilege To Cast Doubt On Why They Need A Union.” “In June, managers at location data startup Mapbox came to employees with alarming news: The company had lost a \$150 million investment, and worker organizing was to blame. Prior to the all-hands meeting over Zoom, roughly two-thirds of the SoftBank-backed startup’s eligible U.S. workers had signed cards indicating their desire to unionize, part of a wave of organizing in Silicon Valley. But after Mapbox management disclosed the botched investment – and said they worried funding trouble would persist if workers formed a union – the tide turned, one current and one former employee said. Workers at Mapbox, which was valued at more than \$1 billion in its most recent private funding round and has engaged with so-called blank check companies about going public, voted against unionization in August. [...] As unions continue engaging with workers, a playbook among tech companies is emerging, according to interviews with tech workers and union organizers: Warn employees about the impact a union would have on the startup’s prospects and, in particular, its ability to raise funds. Remind workers of their privilege to cast doubt on why they need a union. And hire law firms and consultants to help drive the point home.” [Reuters, [11/24/21](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “U.S. Tech Execs Hone Approach To Counter Unions Amid Growing Worker Interest.”** [Reuters, [11/24/21](#)]

CLIMATE CHANGE: PROJECT 2025 WOULD LET BIG TECH OFF THE HOOK FOR PAST CLIMATE PLEDGES

PROJECT 2025 WOULD AGAIN REMOVE THE UNITED STATES FROM THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Sierra Club: Project 2025 “Will Also Once Again Remove The United States From The Paris Agreement.” “This agenda aligns with Trump’s vision of maximizing deregulation and supporting fossil fuel ‘dominance.’ According to the Trump campaign website, a second Trump administration will expedite federal drilling permits, speed up approvals for fracked gas pipelines, and open up ‘vast stores’ of oil and gas for extraction on public lands. The campaign promises to rescind every energy and climate-related regulation that the Biden administration instituted, including rules to reduce auto emissions and improve vehicle fuel economy, energy-efficiency standards for lightbulbs and appliances, and power plant regulations. Trump further aims to provide tax breaks for oil, gas, and coal producers while axing ‘insane wind subsidies.’ Trump will also once again remove the United States from the Paris Agreement.” [Sierra Club, [5/30/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Inside Trump’s Plan To Bulldoze American Climate Policy.”** [Sierra Club, [5/30/24](#)]

Project 2025 Would Withdraw The United States From The Paris Climate Agreement Once Again. “Project 2025 has gained attention as Democrats have latched onto it to try to draw policy contrasts between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump. A look at the chapter on the Department of Treasury not only highlights the conservative disagreement with environmental, social, and governance policies of the Biden Administration, but also calls for the U.S. to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. Although not the official policy of the Trump campaign, it signals a reprioritization of climate change policies and struggles for environmental, social, and governance if Trump wins a second term.” [Forbes, [7/15/24](#)]

- **Headline: “Project 2025 Calls On U.S. To Leave Paris Agreement — Again.”** [Forbes, [7/15/24](#)]

TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE PARIS CLIMATE ACCORDS, THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION HAS SET “A SERIES OF POLICIES WERE ADOPTED TO ADDRESS HOW GOVERNMENTS AND BUSINESSES REDUCE AND REPORT GHG EMISSIONS”

The Paris Climate Agreement “Sets A Goal Of Reaching Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions By 2050. To Reach That Goal, A Series Of Policies Were Adopted To Address How Governments And Businesses Reduce And Report GHG Emissions.” “The Paris Agreement is an international treaty adopted in 2015 to address the impacts of climate change. The agreement sets a goal of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To reach that goal, a series of policies were adopted to address how governments and businesses reduce and report GHG emissions. It also focused on funding of both climate change initiatives and the economic impacts of climate change. The U.S originally signed the treaty in 2015. In 2020, President Trump withdrew the U.S. from the treaty, only for President Biden to rejoin in 2021.” [Forbes, [7/15/24](#)]

THE PROJECT 2025 ENVIRONMENTAL CHAPTER WAS WRITTEN BY “THE CHIEF-ARCHITECT OF THE PARIS ACCORD WITHDRAWAL”

The EPA Chapter Of The Project 2025 Roadmap Was Written By Former Trump Admin Official Who Was “The Chief-Architect Of The Paris Accord Withdrawal.” “The chapter on the EPA was authored by Mandy Gunasekara, an attorney who served as Chief of Staff for the agency during the Trump presidency. Her campaign website describes her as ‘a veteran Republican climate and energy strategist, communicator, and environmental attorney who has a well-earned reputation for delivering

results.' Additionally, it states she 'was the chief-architect of the Paris Accord withdrawal.' She is a visiting fellow at Heritage." [Forbes, [7/11/24](#)]

PROJECT 2025 HIGHLIGHTED "THE CONSERVATIVE DISAGREEMENT WITH CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES AND SIGNALS "A REPRIORITIZATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES"

Forbes Reported Said Project 2025 "Highlights The Conservative Disagreement With Climate Change Policies" And Would Signal "Reprioritization Of Climate Change Policies." "Project 2025 has gained attention recently as Democrats have latched onto it to try to draw policy contrasts between President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump. A look at the chapter on the Environmental Protection Agency highlights the conservative disagreement with climate change policies and greenhouse gas reporting. Although not the official policy of the Trump campaign, it signals a reprioritization of climate change policies and struggles for environmental, social, and governance reporting if Trump wins a second term. The Paris Agreement is an international treaty adopted in 2015 to address the impacts of climate change. The agreement sets a goal of reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To reach that goal, a series of policies were adopted to address how governments and businesses reduce and report GHG emissions. It also focused on funding of both climate change initiatives and the economic impacts of climate change. The U.S signed the treaty in 2015. In 2020, President Trump withdrew the U.S. from the treaty, only for President Biden to rejoin in 2021. As international focus on climate change increased in the wake of the Paris Agreement, there was a simultaneous increase in pressure on businesses to be more accountable for their climate and environmental policies. This translated into a rise in ESG policies from governments and ESG/ sustainability reports by companies." [Forbes, [7/11/24](#)]

- **Headline: "Project 2025 Calls For EPA To Shift Focus From Climate Change."** [Forbes, [7/11/24](#)]

BIG TECH COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY BACKTRACKED & FAILED TO MEET EMISSIONS PLEDGES

Washington Post: "Amazon Retreated From An Effort To Zero Out The Emissions Of Half Its Shipments By 2030." "AIG, which declined to comment or share its response to questions about its climate pledge from the committee, is hardly unusual. Over the last year, Amazon retreated from an effort to zero out the emissions of half its shipments by 2030. Shell Oil dropped an ambitious initiative to build a pipeline of carbon credits through investment in forest preservation and other carbon-absorbing projects worldwide. And BP significantly scaled back its plan to reduce emissions by as much as 35 percent by the end of the decade." [Washington Post, [12/3/23](#)]

- **Washington Post: "Amazon Framed Its Abandonment Of What Was Called Shipment Zero As Part Of A Realignment Toward An Even More Ambitious 'Climate Pledge' To Zero Out Emissions Companywide By 2040. But The Pledge Does Not Include Shipment Zero's More Immediate Goal Of Zeroing Out Emissions On Half Of Its Shipments By 2030."** "Amazon framed its abandonment of what was called Shipment Zero as part of a realignment toward an even more ambitious 'Climate Pledge' to zero out emissions companywide by 2040. But the pledge does not include Shipment Zero's more immediate goal of zeroing out emissions on half of its shipments by 2030. The company is taking other action in the short term, such as putting 100,000 electric delivery vehicles on the road." [Washington Post, [12/3/23](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Companies Made Big Climate Pledges. Now They Are Balking On Delivering."** [Washington Post, [12/3/23](#)]

Google And Amazon Were Named Among Companies That Were "Failing To Meet Their Own Proclaimed Climate Targets And Align With International Agreements To Slash Greenhouse Gas Emissions." "Amazon, Google, Ikea and BMW are among some of the world's biggest companies failing to meet their own proclaimed climate targets and align with international agreements to slash greenhouse gas emissions, a new report claims. The Germany-based NewClimate Institute assessed the climate strategies of 25 major companies and found that while they all 'pledge some form of zero emission, net

zero or carbon-neutrality target,' just three of them are committed to reducing their "full value chain emissions" by more than 90% by their respective targets dates." [CNN, [2/7/22](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Some Of The World's Biggest Companies Are Failing On Their Own Climate Pledges, Researchers Say."** [CNN, [2/7/22](#)]

Bloomberg: "Google's Total Planet-Warming Emissions In 2023 Are 48% Higher Than 2019." "The changes to its carbon credits purchase strategy have coincided with Google and Big Tech's push on artificial intelligence, which a Bloomberg News investigation has shown is extremely resource intensive. As a result, Google's total planet-warming emissions in 2023 are 48% higher than 2019. In that period, its total energy consumption has doubled. It's a similar story for Microsoft, which has seen primarily its AI activities cause emissions to rise by 30% relative to 2020, even as it still aims to be carbon negative by 2030." [Bloomberg, [7/8/24](#)]

Associated Press: A Report Released In July 2024 Found Showed That Google Was "Nowhere Near Meeting" Their Net Zero Carbon Emissions Goals. "Three years ago, Google set an ambitious plan to address climate change by going 'net zero,' meaning it would release no more climate-changing gases into the air than it removes, by 2030. But a report from the company Tuesday shows it is nowhere near meeting that goal. Rather than declining, its emissions grew 13% in 2023 over the year before. Compared to its baseline year of 2019, emissions have soared 48%. Google cited artificial intelligence and the demand it puts on data centers, which require massive amounts of electricity, for last year's growth. Making that electricity by burning coal or natural gas emits greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide and methane, which warm the planet, bringing more extreme weather. The company has one of the most significant climate commitments in industry and has been seen as a leader." [Associated Press, [7/2/24](#)]

- **HEADLINE: "Google Falling Short Of Important Climate Target, Cites Electricity Needs Of AI."** [Associated Press, [7/2/24](#)]