

# [***Democrats More Likely To Mention Politics On Twitter Profiles, Study Finds***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:65CT-RHC1-JBCM-F1X5-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

May 5, 2022 Thursday

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**Length:** 608 words

**Byline:** Zachary Snowdon Smith, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Pew Research Center found that 7% of Democrats use political language in their Twitter profiles, compared to just 2% of Republicans.

**Body**

**Topline**

DespiteTwitter sreputation as a political hotbed, most U.S. adults don t use political language in their bios, though Democrats, people who tweet often and people with many followers were among the most likely to do so, according todatapublished Thursday by Pew Research Center.

<figure>

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Young adults use Twitter at the Local 16 bar and restaurant in Washington, DC. during a televised political debate watch party.

Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

</figcaption></figure>

**Key Facts**

Just 6% of U.S. adults use political language on their Twitter profiles, including 7% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents and 2% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, Pewfound.

This confirmed data suggesting that most political content on Twitter comes from a small group of users a 2018-2019 Pewsurveyof tweets by U.S. adults found that 97% of tweets mentioning national ***politics*** came from just 10% of users, while nearly two-thirds of users didn t tweet about national ***politics*** even once.

Thursday s survey found that users who averaged 20 or more tweets a month were about six times more likely to mention ***politics*** on their profiles than users who tweeted less often, reinforcingprevious findingsthat frequent tweeters are more politically engaged on the site than less frequent tweeters.

Users in the top 25% of following size were about eight times more likely to mention ***politics*** in their profiles, about twice as likely to list their occupations and about four times as likely to name their employers than users with fewer followers, Pew found.

Twitter users were more likely to mention personal information than ***politics*** on their profiles, with 23% mentioning their jobs, 12% citing hobbies and interests, and 8% referencing family.

Pew analyzed data collected on January 31 from 1,021 active, valid Twitter accounts that had participated in a previous Pew survey.

**Key Background**

Twitter has often been accused of political discrimination by critics on the right. In 2018, then Twitter CEOJack Dorsey concededmost Twitter employees leaned leftward, but insisted this did not influence how they applied the company s policies. Social media platforms likeParlerandGabhave positioned themselves as right-wing Twitter alternatives, though they have remained marginal compared to Twitter, which boasts229 millionactive users. Twitter s most prominent right-wing challenger is Donald Trump s censorship-free Truth Social, which became themost downloadedfree app on Apple s App Store despite beingplaguedwith glitches and fake accounts.Elon Musk s proposed$44 billion purchaseof Twitter has beenpopularly viewedas a win for the right, as Musk hasaccusedthe platform of suppressing free speech.

**Contra**

Twitter sinternal researchsuggests its algorithms tend to promote content from right-wing politicians and media outlets over content from left-wing sources. Astudyby researchers from MIT, the University of Exeter and Yale found that, while Republicans were about four times more likely to be suspended from Twitter than Democrats, Republicans were also more likely than Democrats to post misinformation that couldviolatethe platform s content guidelines. The study, which has not yet been peer reviewed, did not unearth evidence of bias by Twitter.

**Tangent**

Mentioning preferred pronouns such as she/her and he/him in Twitter bios was rare among all groups, but more common among Democrats. Pew found that 4% of U.S. adults mentioned pronouns, including 6% of Democrats but none of the Republicans included in Pew s 1,021-account sample.

**Further Reading**

#ArrestTrumpNow Trending On Twitter Is This Rhetoric Bad For Democracy? (Forbes)

**Load-Date:** May 6, 2022

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