

BERLIN — The Left party is experiencing an unexpected momentum boost less than two weeks before Germany's national election.

Nearly 23,500 people have joined the far-left party since the start of the year, according to figures first reported by [Der Spiegel](#), pushing its total to a record 81,200 — the highest since 2009.

The rise comes as left-wing voters mobilize against what they see as a growing rightward shift in German politics. “People want a fairer, more just policy,” said The Left co-chair Jan van Aken. “They know they can rely on us.” Party leaders say the influx reflects growing concerns over the political direction of the country as conservative forces gain ground ahead of the Feb. 23 election.

The new members skew younger and more female, potentially giving the party a fresh boost among progressive voters. The average age of recent recruits is 29, and 53 percent of them are women, shifting the party's overall demographics to an average age of 43 and a 42 percent female membership share, according to [Tagesspiegel](#).

The Left, which has faced internal divisions and weak polling in recent years, hopes this late surge will translate into electoral gains.

Recently, The Left has [regained traction](#) in the polls, averaging 5 percent — which would be enough to meet the threshold to keep the party in the Bundestag.

But its path remains uncertain. The party faces competition from the newly formed left-populist Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW) and must convince voters it can offer a credible alternative on the national stage.

BERLIN — Germany's far-left Die Linke party — or The Left — was struggling

with declining support for years. So when its star politician, Sahra Wagenknecht, broke away at the end of 2023 to launch a new populist force, many wrote the party off for good.

But ahead of a national election this Sunday, The Left is showing surprising signs of life: In recent polls it has surged back above the 5 percent threshold

needed to win seats in the Bundestag, while its membership has grown to an all-time high.

“It’s incredible how much energy is unleashed when we clarify our positions and focus clearly,” said Ines Schwerdtner, one of the party’s national leaders. “There’s a sense of momentum throughout the party.”

The Left, which traces some of its roots back to East Germany’s communist party, is doing particularly well at appealing to young voters across the country who are outraged by the rise of the far right.

Behind The Left’s revival is Heidi Reichinnek, the party’s parliamentary group leader and a rising social media star. Clips of her fiery speeches have often gone viral, including one in which she attacked conservative chancellor candidate Friedrich Merz for weakening Germany’s [postwar “firewall” quarantine](#) against the far right by trying to push immigration measures through the Bundestag with help from the extremist Alternative for Germany (AfD) party.

In [her speech](#), Reichinnek attacked Merz for “deliberately” working with the AfD. “And that’s the damn problem,” she said. “All this happened only two days after we commemorated the liberation of Auschwitz, two days after commemorating the murdered and tormented. Now you’re collaborating with those who carry on this same ideology.”



“It’s incredible how much energy is unleashed when we clarify our positions and focus clearly,” said Ines Schwerdtner, one of the party’s national leaders. | Christian Mang/Getty Images

On TikTok and Instagram, her blunt messaging has struck a chord, particularly with young voters. [A survey from earlier this month](#) shows The Left polling at 19 percent among voters under 30, tied with the Greens for first among that age group. The party currently has about 81,200 members, some 17,470 of whom signed up after Merz’s firewall gambit.

### **The Left’s political resurrection**

The Left has deep roots in German history. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the East German communist party, known as the Socialist Unity Party, morphed into the Party of Democratic Socialism and catered mainly to eastern Germans who felt left behind in a reunified Germany. In 2007, the PDS, in an effort to rebrand into a more national party and move away from its communist roots, merged with another leftist grouping to create The Left.

For a time it looked as if The Left might play a major role in German politics. In a 2009 national election the party won 11.9 percent of the vote with two well-known leftist politicians, Gregor Gysi und Oskar Lafontaine, heading the ticket. While remaining a constant force in the Bundestag, the party has fallen off in recent years.

Among the causes of the party's troubles have been internal fissures, particularly over migration. Wagenknecht, an icon of Germany's left and one of the country's best-known politicians, took an increasingly anti-immigration turn, particularly following the refugee crisis of 2015, causing many in her party to turn against her. After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Wagenknecht was often accused of parroting Kremlin propaganda.

In 2023 Wagenknecht announced she would split from The Left to form her own party, dubbed the Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW). The [populist-left party fuses elements](#) of hard-right policies on migration with traditionally left-wing economic stances. BSW surged in the polls after its creation, particularly in the former East Germany, while The Left initially suffered.

But The Left has since recovered — and is [currently polling](#) at 7 percent, ahead of BSW on 5 percent. As it now stands, both parties have a chance of making it into the Bundestag, an outcome that would further splinter the German political landscape.



In [the speech](#), Heidi Reichinnek attacked Merz for “deliberately” working with the AfD. | Maja Hitij/Getty Images

Reichinnek, The Left’s social media star, credits the party’s grassroots efforts and the appeal of progressive politics among German youth for their recent success.

“We’ve knocked on over 300,000 doors. We’ve spoken with people, we’ve listened, and we’re already helping in their daily lives,” she said on a [talk show in early February](#). “While others just talk, we act.”

The party also has a fallback plan in case it doesn’t meet the 5 percent threshold ordinarily needed to make it into the Bundestag. Under German election rules, if three candidates win their constituency seats directly, their party enters parliament even if it falls below the threshold.

PARIS — For France’s moderate left, it looks like now or never.

The Socialist party — less extreme than the rest of the fragile left-wing alliance that was cobbled together for this summer's election — is signaling a willingness to compromise that has been in short supply of late.

As freshly elected centrist Prime Minister François Bayrou [struggled to put together a government](#) this month, the Socialists [extended an olive branch](#) and set down their red lines for not toppling it.

Talks between the left and Bayrou never really took off, and the Socialists are once again [threatening to vote against the government](#), but the close encounter may prove to be a turning point in French politics. The Socialists have been playing second fiddle on the left for years, their last president, François Hollande, having departed office in 2017, leaving them to fight for credibility since.

But as politicians from all sides jostle for support with eyes on the 2027 election to replace President Emmanuel Macron, the Socialists are trying to up their game. While they teamed up with other lawmakers on the left as well as Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally to vote out the previous government in December, that may end up being the peak of opposition unity.

"We are ready to discuss ... open doors for compromises," Socialist party leader Olivier Faure said Dec. 19 after talks with Bayrou. Unlike other anti-Macron parties, they have floated some limited cooperation to keep France from grinding to a halt and say they will refrain from toppling the next government if Bayrou plays nice.

Their position offers a stark contrast with that of their partner in the pan-left coalition, far-left firebrand Jean-Luc Mélenchon.

His France Unbowed party has constantly upped the ante in recent years, sparking periodic controversies on Ukraine and support for Palestinians, and is now campaigning for Macron's resignation.

While Mélenchon, who finished third in France's last two presidential elections, remains the leading figure of the pan-left New Popular Front, he is increasingly perceived by the moderate Socialists as toxic and an obstacle to its rise to power.



For the once-dominant Socialists, it's an opportunity. France is heading toward a wide-open presidential election in 2027 — Macron can't run again — and after seven years of center-right policies, French voters seem [ready for a change](#).

To ensure the change leads in their direction, however, the moderate left understands it needs to widen its appeal and rid itself of Mélenchon.

“It's the big strategic deadlock of the left,” said Ipsos pollster Mathieu Gallard. Mélenchon is “best placed” to beat other left-wing candidates, but he's “not the best placed to win the presidential election, even against the far right.”



Talks between the left and Bayrou never really took off. | Richard Bouhet/AFP via Getty Images

Socialist Party officials believe the political winds may be shifting in their favor.

In this summer's European election, pro-Europe center-left candidate Raphaël Glucksmann [did surprisingly well](#), while in July's snap election the

left-wing coalition didn't secure a parliamentary majority but won the largest number of seats.

For the Socialists, it's a resurrection. The party that ruled France on and off for 30 years was obliterated in the wake of Macron's meteoric rise: In the 2017 presidential election the Socialist candidate came fifth in the first round of voting, miles behind Macron and the two extremes of Le Pen and Mélenchon.

### **'Less cornered'**

While Bayrou couldn't be accused of accepting the olive branch extended by the Socialists with gusto, he did take some small steps toward meeting them halfway.

Bayrou pledged to try to avoid using a constitutional maneuver that bypasses parliament to pass the budget, something his predecessor Michel Barnier did earlier in December, triggering a vote of no-confidence that he subsequently lost.

He also suggested kicking off consultations on a possible new pensions reform, one of the key asks of the Socialist Party.

It would be shortsighted, however, to think Macron's troops and the Socialists will be able to work hand in hand. When Bayrou [at last unveiled his new government last week](#), Socialist leader Faure slammed it as "hard right" and beholden to the far-right National Rally.

But according to the academic and political scientist Rémi Lefebvre, that doesn't matter: The moderate left is emerging as "less cornered" than before. "It's an excellent sequence for the Socialist Party, they needed to emancipate," he said. "It's the Socialists who were the most audible, not the France Unbowed party. In contrast, the far left appeared dogmatic and marginal."

Even if talks between Bayrou and the Socialists don't go anywhere, these are still signals that can be picked up by Macron's electorate.

But the question now is what comes next.



The Socialist Party is caught in a Catch-22: They need the alliance with the far left to keep their seats in parliament, but need to disengage from France Unbowed if they want to emerge in a crowded political landscape.

In France's two-round voting system, parties are encouraged to band together or risk being eliminated from the run-off. With local elections due in 2026 and everyone expecting another parliamentary election next summer, the bruised and fragile left-wing New Popular Front is set to survive a while longer.



“We are ready to discuss ... open doors for compromises,” Socialist party leader Olivier Faure said. | Hans Lucas/AFP via Getty Images

### **The impossible path to victory**

But while the moderate left needs France Unbowed to survive, they need to purge it if they want to make a comeback.

“There’s no question that ahead of the 2027 presidential election, a successful strategy on the left rests on reclaiming the center left that ... moved toward

Macron's camp," Ipsos pollster Mathieu Gallard said. And those voters hate Mélenchon.

The Socialists themselves don't seem to have any answers. Socialist Senator Rachid Temal argues the party needs to do some soul-searching and work "on [their] projects" before reappraising their alliances.

PARIS — Thousands of left-leaning protesters gathered in Paris on Sunday night after the first round of a snap election that resulted in the far-right National Rally (RN) winning 33 percent of the vote, [according to early estimates](#).

There was a mixture of emotions in the crowd.

"I'm really worried about the far right coming to power," said Alban, a 23-year-old student, who asked to be identified by his first name. He added, between sips of beer, that he was still hopeful: "We still have a week left, so we'll keep fighting."

As forecast in pre-election polls, the first round of the French legislative election confirmed the New Popular Front, an alliance of the main parties on the left, as the second-biggest political force in the country.

Hastily formed a day after French President Emmanuel Macron's surprise decision to dissolve the National Assembly, the alliance consists of the France Unbowed party, the Socialists, the Greens and the Communists.

The left-wing alliance made a strong showing, with around 28 percent of the vote, but is unlikely to land enough seats in the runoffs to form a majority in parliament.

That didn't stop a defiant Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the firebrand leader of France Unbowed, presenting himself as the main obstacle to the far right. He called on voters to give "an absolute majority to the New Popular Front."



There was a mixture of emotions in the crowd. | Dimitar Dilkoff/Getty Images

“The country will have to choose,” Mélenchon said from his party’s electoral headquarters. The options for Sunday’s second round are “either the New Popular Front or the National Rally,” he argued.

Mélenchon called for the leftwing alliance’s candidates to withdraw in districts in which they finished third and the far right came first. The strategic move, designed to help mainstream parties secure a majority of votes in the second round, was welcomed by his supporters.

“He took his political responsibilities, and it’s an answer to those who were trying to put us side by side with the RN,” said Charbel Chaaya, a 23-year-old law student who believes the left can still win the election.

But the left’s old divisions are never far away.

Lili Lorton, a 23-year-old social sciences student, said she supports the left but feels closest to the Greens. Her family is also left-leaning, but her parents support Raphaël Gluckmann, a center-left figure who led the Socialists’

campaign for the European election. Lorton convinced them to vote for the Greens, mostly for “ecological reasons.”

“On identity issues, notably racial issues, we argue a lot,” she admitted.

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**ALL 3 YEARS 2 YEARS 1 YEAR 6 MONTHS SMOOTH KALMAN**

European election 2024 Legislative Election 2024, first round Legislative Election 2024, second round Jul 07, 2024 ENS 23 % LR 5 % RN 32 % Others (left) 1 % Others (right) 4 % NFP 26 % Jul Oct 2024 Apr Jul Oct 2025 Apr 0 % 5 % 10 % 15 % 20 % 25 % 30 % 35 %

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### 1. Jacobin – “Elon Musk’s Goal Isn’t Efficiency — It’s a Liquidation Sale”

This article argues that Elon Musk isn’t simply trying to make companies more efficient. Instead, it contends that his actions are aimed at dismantling established corporate structures so that assets can be sold off for profit. The piece links Musk’s approach to broader neoliberal policies that, according to the author, harm working people by concentrating wealth and power in the hands of a few. In doing so, it calls for a radical rethinking of corporate governance and a shift toward worker empowerment.

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### 2. The Progressive – “Why Trump’s Tariffs Are Destroying American Manufacturing”

In this article, The Progressive lays out a critique of the Trump administration’s use of tariffs. The writer argues that these tariffs disrupt global supply chains, undermine small and local manufacturers, and end up benefiting multinational corporations rather than the workers. The piece makes the case that such policies exacerbate economic inequality and calls for progressive

measures that protect American labor and promote fair trade practices, emphasizing a need for systemic change in economic policy.

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### **3. Democracy Now! – “Mass Mobilization: How Grassroots Movements Are Reshaping U.S. Politics”**

This report focuses on how grassroots progressive movements are organizing massive protests and community campaigns across the country. It highlights stories from local organizing efforts that demand reforms in social justice, racial equality, and economic policy. The piece underscores the importance of direct, community-based activism in challenging what the reporters see as an entrenched corporate and governmental power structure, and it calls for a transformation of American democracy driven by the people rather than by elite interests.

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### **4. World Socialist Web Site – “The 1619 Project: A Trotskyist Critique”**

This article provides a radical left critique of the New York Times’ 1619 Project. From a Trotskyist perspective, it argues that the project overemphasizes racial divisions while neglecting the central role of class struggle and economic exploitation. The piece claims that American history should be understood through the lens of working-class struggle against capitalist exploitation, not solely through racial narratives. It calls for a more comprehensive, class-based analysis of history that challenges the mainstream revisionist narratives.

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### **5. Daily Kos – “Hands Off: The Progressive Resistance to Corporate Oligarchy”**

In this editorial, Daily Kos denounces the alliance between corporate oligarchs and government policies that, in the view of the author, prioritize billionaire profits over the needs of everyday Americans. The piece criticizes the Trump administration for using executive power to further enrich the few at the expense of public welfare. It advocates for a mobilized, progressive response—including policies like universal healthcare, living wages, and robust labor rights—to reclaim democratic control and create an economy that serves working people.

- **Mother Jones – “The Failure of Corporate America: Profit Over People”**

In this piece, Mother Jones argues that corporate greed and unregulated capitalism are undermining democracy. The article details how profit-driven policies have led to worsening economic inequality and the erosion of public services, and it calls for progressive reforms that prioritize human welfare over shareholder returns.

- **The Nation – “Capitalism on the Brink: Reclaiming the Economy for the People”**

This article contends that neoliberal capitalism has reached a breaking point. It critiques policies that favor multinational corporations and the financial elite while neglecting working people. The writer argues for a radical restructuring of the economy—one that emphasizes social ownership, wealth redistribution, and robust public investment to safeguard democracy.

- **In These Times – “Beyond the Austerity Myth: A New Vision for a Post-Crisis Economy”**

Here, the authors challenge austerity measures as a misguided response to economic crises. They outline an alternative vision centered on increased public spending in infrastructure, education, and social services. The piece maintains that such a transformation is necessary to reverse the deepening economic hardship for the working class and to build a fairer society.

- **Jacobin – “The Wages of Recession: How Workers Bear the Brunt of Economic Collapse”**

Another Jacobin article examines how recession and the subsequent policy responses have disproportionately hurt working families. It highlights the failures of conventional economic policies and advocates for socialist alternatives—including higher worker control over production and a stronger social safety net—to protect and empower labor.

- **Common Dreams – “Rising Inequality: The Urgent Need for Progressive Tax Reform”**

This article from Common Dreams focuses on the growing wealth gap in America. It argues that without major progressive tax reforms aimed at redistributing wealth, the concentration of economic power will continue to erode democratic accountability and social justice. The writer calls for policies that fund public services and empower ordinary citizens.

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# Elon Musk's Goal Isn't Efficiency — It's a Liquidation Sale

BY

[MEAGAN DAY](#)

The Department of Government Efficiency isn't bumbling through an ill-advised reform effort. It's deliberately sabotaging federal agencies to make way for privatization.



Elon Musk holds a chain saw during the annual Conservative Political Action Conference in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on February 20, 2025. (Saul Loeb / AFP via Getty Images)

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Earlier this week, the *Economist* [asked plaintively](#) whether Elon Musk was fixing the federal government, as promised, or destroying it. “This newspaper looked forward to what Mr Musk might do with some hope,” it stated, but has watched with mounting concern as Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has “broken laws with glee and callously destroyed careers,” as well as “made false claims about waste and seized personal data protected by law.”

The article concludes that Musk has become so intoxicated with authoritarian power and consumed by petty cultural and political grievances that his otherwise good organizational sense has fallen by the wayside — a genius’s tragic decline, dragging the federal government down with him.

The *Economist* should give Musk a little more credit. If DOGE fails at making the federal government more efficient, it’s instead because Musk has a grander vision for it, one many at the *Economist* might find agreeable: privatization.

All the smashing and breaking and outright ruining is not accidental. It serves a higher purpose: breaking public institutions to make way for private sector alternatives.

Speaking at a Morgan Stanley conference in March, Musk was [open about this ambition](#), saying the government should privatize “everything we possibly can.”

The American right has long wanted to accomplish exactly this. In George W. Bush-era [conservative strategist](#) Grover Norquist’s famous [poetic phrasing](#), “I don’t want to abolish government. I simply want to reduce it to the size where I can drag it into the bathroom and drown it in the bathtub.” Of course, when public services are no longer reliable or available, that doesn’t mean they’re no longer needed. It means that control of their provision will revert to the private market, where capitalists stand to profit from selling replacements for what has been destroyed. (Norquist, for his part, is [enthusiastic](#) about DOGE.)

Even minimal attention to Musk's [own statements](#) on privatization clarifies the issue. He's not bumbling his way through an ill-advised attempt at streamlining and fine-tuning government agencies. Making public institutions work better would be counterproductive to the ultimate goal of shifting their assets and services to the private sector. The chaos is intentional. The weaker federal agencies are, the easier they are to drown.

## The Chain Saw Brotherhood

The image of Musk [brandishing a chain saw](#) onstage at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in February quickly became emblematic of DOGE's strategy of hacking away at federal agencies. On closer scrutiny, it also offers a window into DOGE's fundamental philosophy and longer-term objective of advancing privatization.

Making public institutions work better would be counterproductive to Elon Musk's ultimate goal of shifting their assets and services to the private sector.

The man who gifted Musk the chain saw onstage was Argentine president Javier Milei, who himself is so devoted to privatization that he's proposed [turning organ donation](#) into "just another market" to be handled by "market mechanisms." Milei had previously performed the chain saw gesture [many times](#), as first a self-proclaimed "anarcho-capitalist" candidate and then, after December 2023, as Argentina's elected leader.

For Milei, the chain saw has an unambiguous meaning, representing a disruptive strategy of punishing austerity and radical privatization. After his election, Milei [declared](#), "Everything that can be in the hands of the private sector will be in the hands of the private sector." Within months, he moved to privatize state-owned media outlets and energy companies while also imposing brutal austerity measures on ordinary Argentines.

Milei has since dismantled over half of Argentina's ministries, created new pro-market agencies like the Ministry of Deregulation, and fired tens of thousands of public employees. Sound familiar? His government

has collaborated with figures like Marcos Galperin, whom *Boston Review* [describes](#) as “the Elon Musk of Argentina,” while pursuing international alliances with tech billionaires for lithium extraction and satellite internet expansion. In January, Milei’s [sale of IMPSA](#), a national energy and technology company, to a US investment fund marked his first formal privatization. He promises more privatizations to come.

Donald Trump has declared Milei his “[favorite president](#).” Musk and Milei, meanwhile, [frequently post](#) messages of admiration to each other on X. In April 2024, [they met](#) at Tesla’s Texas facility, where they discussed their shared political vision — and Argentina’s precious lithium reserves, which are valuable for Tesla’s electric vehicle batteries. Beyond the CPAC spectacle, they “have created a [mutual amplification system](#) — Milei points to Musk’s support as validation while Musk points to Argentina as proof that his approach works.”

The chain saw has rightly become symbolic of DOGE’s strategy of aggressive cuts, but it’s also emblematic of the purpose behind the strategy. Milei isn’t concerned with rationalizing government operations; he fundamentally rejects the legitimacy of government itself beyond serving as a minimal administrative apparatus for private market operations. This ideological foundation is equally true for Musk, whose DOGE disruptions are not misguided attempts at reform but a deliberate assault on the very concept of public governance.

## Chum in the Water

Unlike the *Economist*, the *Washington Post* [appears wise](#) to DOGE’s raison d’être, asserting that the task force is “paving the way for a new shift to the private sector,” and that its “ultimate goal is to limit the scope of government and privatize what is left.”

The paper points to less-discussed initiatives already underway. At the DOGE-affiliated General Services Administration, for example, officials

are quietly [orchestrating the sale](#) of hundreds of federal buildings to private companies — including the Justice Department and Department of Housing and Urban Development headquarters — which would then lease the space back to the government. Career staffers have expressed alarm that these properties might be sold at steep discounts to Trump allies.

DOGE's disruptions are not misguided attempts at reform but a deliberate assault on the very concept of public governance.

Meanwhile, DOGE has targeted the National Weather Service for significant staff reductions, seemingly in line with Project 2025's vision of "fully commercializing" weather forecasting. The Federal Aviation Administration is exploring the potential [role of Starlink](#) satellites, owned by Elon Musk, in contributing to weather forecasting — surely a coincidence.

Beyond DOGE, the broader Trump administration has embraced privatization with equal enthusiasm. Trump's interior secretary is working to [open federal lands](#) across the West to private developers, while his treasury secretary has [explicitly vowed](#) to "reprivatize the economy."

Per the *Post*, other privatization-oriented proposals are also under serious consideration. The administration is entertaining a plan to allocate \$40 billion from the shuttered United States Agency for International Development to private investors and companies. And the far-right military contractor Erik Prince, who founded the mercenary service formerly known as Blackwater and to whom the Trump administration has [strong ties](#), has proposed turning over [defense operations](#) and [immigration enforcement](#) to private security firms.

A chief economist at the financial services network RSM told the *Post*, "It's been clear from the first days of the administration that one of their main longer-term objectives is privatization of many government assets. They've been very clear about their intent."

For anyone tracking these developments closely, it's evident that the chain saw is not a tool to trim away excess. It's a tool to clear-cut public infrastructure to prepare the ground for corporate control.

## Be Like Wells Fargo

There is no more obvious example of the privatization push unfolding than DOGE's [interference](#) in the United States Postal Service (USPS). In February, DOGE "partnered" with USPS to cut ten thousand jobs and slash \$3.5 billion from its operating costs. Theoretically, these reforms are being pursued in the name of efficiency. Critics, however, point out that cuts will make USPS [less efficient](#), especially in rural areas where service is already stretched thin.

Separately, Elon Musk has been clear that he would like to see USPS [outright privatized](#). What's more likely — that DOGE's USPS cuts are an attempt to improve operations or to degrade them, eroding public support for the service and paving the way for private alternatives?

Wells Fargo knows the answer. As [Jacobin reported](#), the banking giant, licking its chops, circulated an internal memo in March that outlined a detailed plan for USPS privatization. Its blueprint calls for initially splitting the agency in two: selling off the profitable package and parcel components while leaving mail delivery as a bare-bones taxpayer-funded entity. It admits that the new private company would need to raise prices, and that the remaining public portion of USPS would struggle to keep up deliveries. The scenario would make it easier to overcome opposition from unions and the public to achieve wholesale privatization.

The strategy is straightforward: break the public service badly enough that privatization becomes the default solution. As sociologist Paul Starr noted in his [analysis of privatization strategies](#), this approach exemplifies "privatization by attrition," where public services are

deliberately pushed to deteriorate, encouraging people to turn to private options, even as those newly commodified services come with higher prices and [worse performance](#). The other privatization methods Starr identified — direct asset transfers, outsourcing, and deregulation — are also being deployed simultaneously across the federal government at DOGE's insistence.

Trump [recently suggested](#) that Musk's term with DOGE may be coming to an end. Even so, the chain saw is up and running. DOGE isn't failing at making government more efficient. It's successfully sabotaging public institutions in order to transfer them into private hands. Wells Fargo recognizes it. We should too.

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