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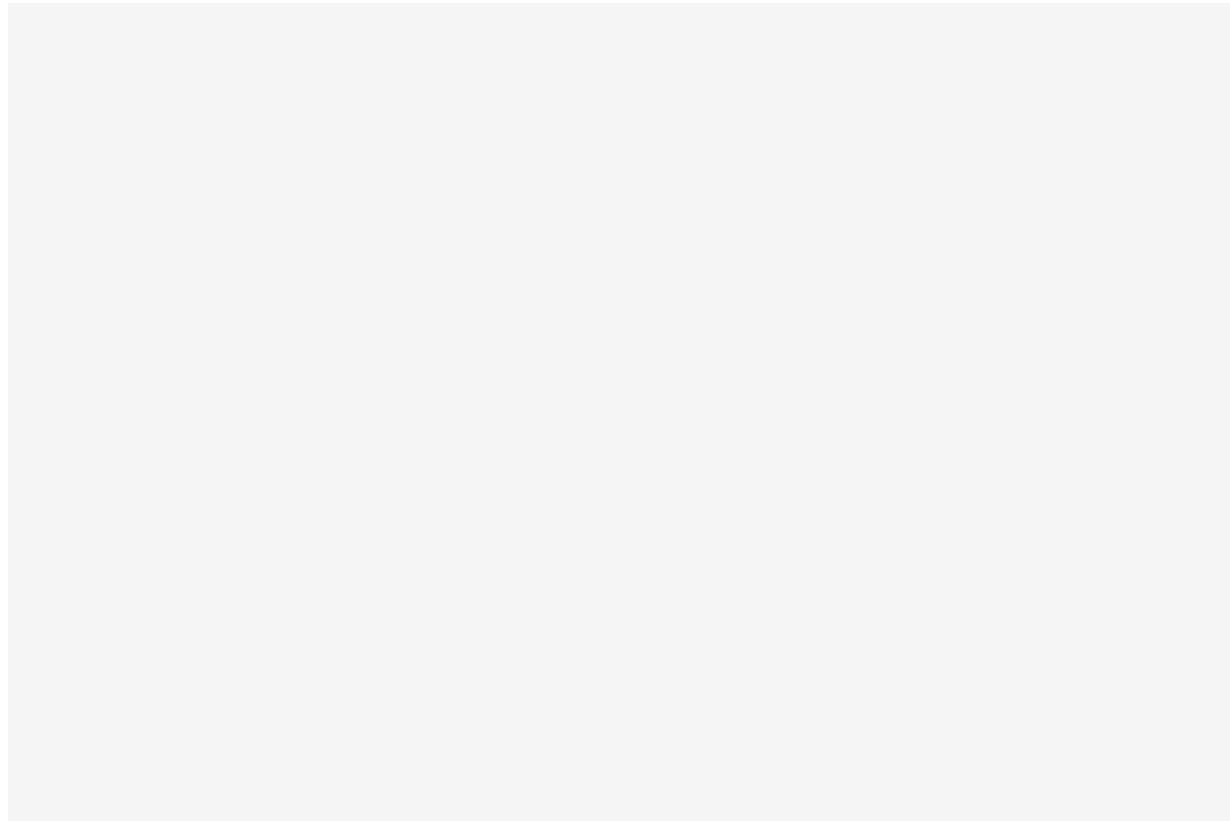
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## Elon Musk Is Driving Trumpworld Absolutely Insane

### Donald Trump's inner circle is losing it over Elon Musk's chaos.



Al Drago/Bloomberg/Getty Images

Even the people closest to Donald Trump are suffering under Elon Musk's sudden takeover of the executive branch, and they're turning to an unexpected savior to intervene: White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles.

In an interview with MSNBC's Ali Vitali, *Wired*'s Jake Lahut revealed Friday that a slew of longtime Trump loyalists have turned to the so-called "[ice maiden](#)" to liberate the administration from Musk's influence.

"You spoke to half a dozen Trump loyalists, Republican aides, and advisers inside and around the administration," Vitali started. "I think many of them, even though they say they're shocked to be saying this, the rift almost seemed inevitable. But how much of a rift actually is it? And what is the sense behind the scenes?"

"I still don't have a clear sense of the factions at play here, but it's happening," Lahut said. "I wouldn't call it a full-blown freak-out quite yet, but the folks I talked to have all been loyal to Trump and have been on the [Trump] train since before January 6, and it takes quite a lot to rattle or surprise these people.

"And these are folk who, you know, normally would be inclined to spin this in some sort of way," Lahut continued. "Instead, they don't know who to turn to. A lot of them want Susie Wiles, the White House chief of staff, to intervene in some form."

Wiles, whose job it is to iron out the creases in Trump's chaotic Cabinet and streamline his mission, has already butted heads with Musk. Last month, she [refused](#) the billionaire a coveted permanent office in the White House. That move came weeks after Wiles told *Axios* that anyone who wants to be a "star" would have no place on her team.

"I don't welcome people who want to work solo or be a star," Wiles told [Axios](#) by email in early January. "My team and I will not tolerate backbiting, second-guessing inappropriately, or drama. These are counterproductive to the mission."

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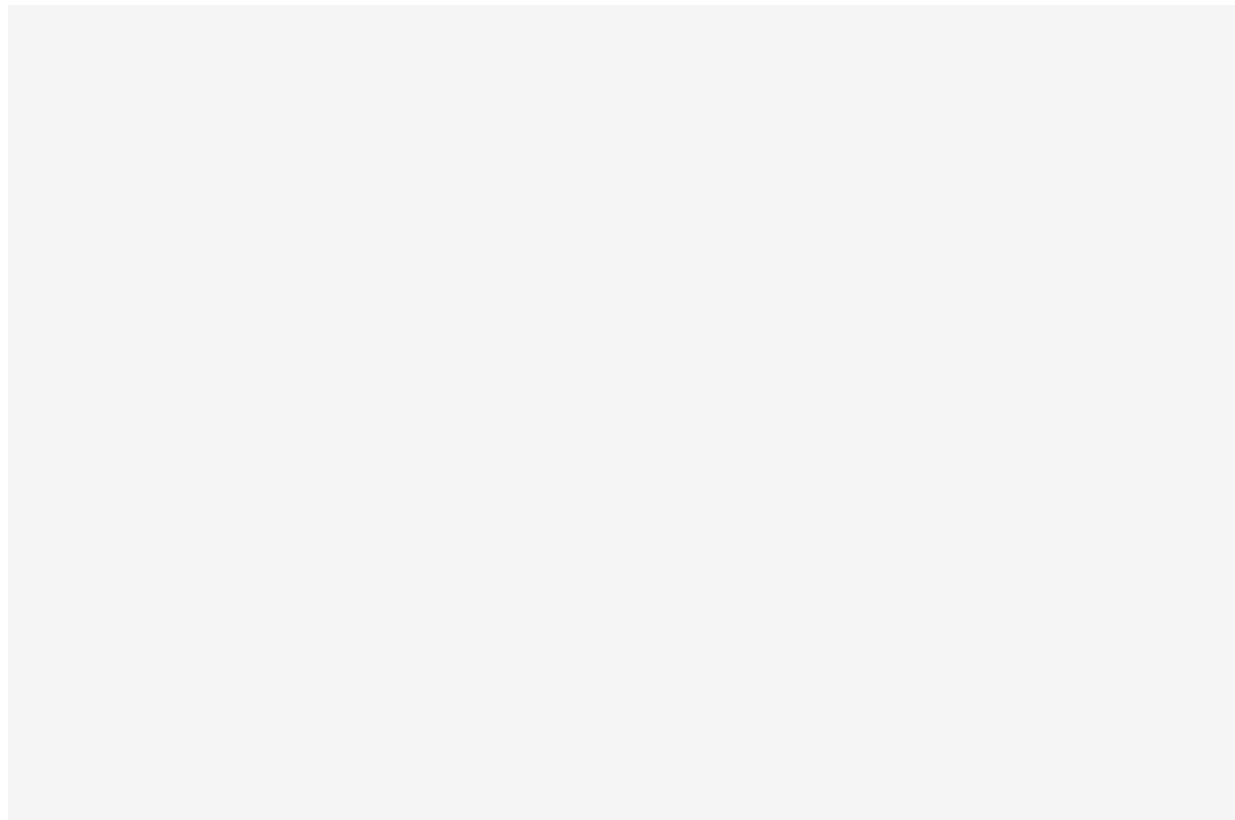
Read more about Susie Wiles's ability to rein Trump in:  
[Trump Brutally Mocked for Shocking Top Aide With Ethnic Cleansing Plan](#)

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February 6, 2025/5:52 p.m. ET  
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## Trump Sues His Least Favorite City Over Immigration

The Justice Department is taking aim at so-called “sanctuary cities” and states.



Jacek Boczarski/Anadolu/Getty Images

Protesters gather for a rally and march to Trump Tower, demanding an end to violence in Gaza and a halt to deportation plans, in Chicago, on January 25.

The Justice Department is [suing](#) the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois for not caving to the Trump administration's [performative](#), fear-inducing immigration raids.

The DOJ wants to stop the city from enforcing its sanctuary city laws that they say “interfere with and discriminate against” Donald Trump's immigration crackdown—yet another installment of the beef between the president and the city, which goes back to a canceled [2016](#) campaign

rally.

Last month, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson [said](#) that immigrants would be protected, “whether you’re undocumented, whether you are seeking asylum, or whether you’re seeking a good-paying job.

“We’re going to fight and stand up for working people. That’s what Chicago is known for,” he continued. “We’re going to continue to do that regardless of who’s in the White House.”

Last week, “border czar” Tom Homan [complained](#) that Chicagoans were too knowledgeable for ICE to carry out effective raids.

“Sanctuary citizens are making it very difficult to arrest the criminals. For instance, Chicago, very well-educated. They’ve been educated how to defy ICE, how to hide from ICE,” Homan said. “I’ve seen many pamphlets from many NGOs: ‘Here’s how you escape ICE from arresting you’; ‘Here’s what you need to do.’ They call it ‘Know your rights.’ I call it ‘How to escape arrest.’”

On Saturday, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker [let Trump know](#) he was “not afraid” of any retaliation he may receive from the president for his actions.

“We’re not gonna have our police here locally coordinating with federal officials to have them taken away... It’s a reckless set of policies that [Trump is] engaging in,” Pritzker said on MSNBC’s *The Weekend*.

In a statement responding to the lawsuit, a spokesperson for Pritzker’s office, Alex Gough, [said](#), “Instead of working with us to support law enforcement, the Trump Administration is making it more difficult to protect the public, just like they did when Trump pardoned the convicted January 6 violent criminals.”

Johnson said in his own [statement](#) that the “safety and security of Chicago residents remains the priority for the Johnson Administration. Chicago will continue to protect the working people of our city and defend against attacks on our longstanding values.”

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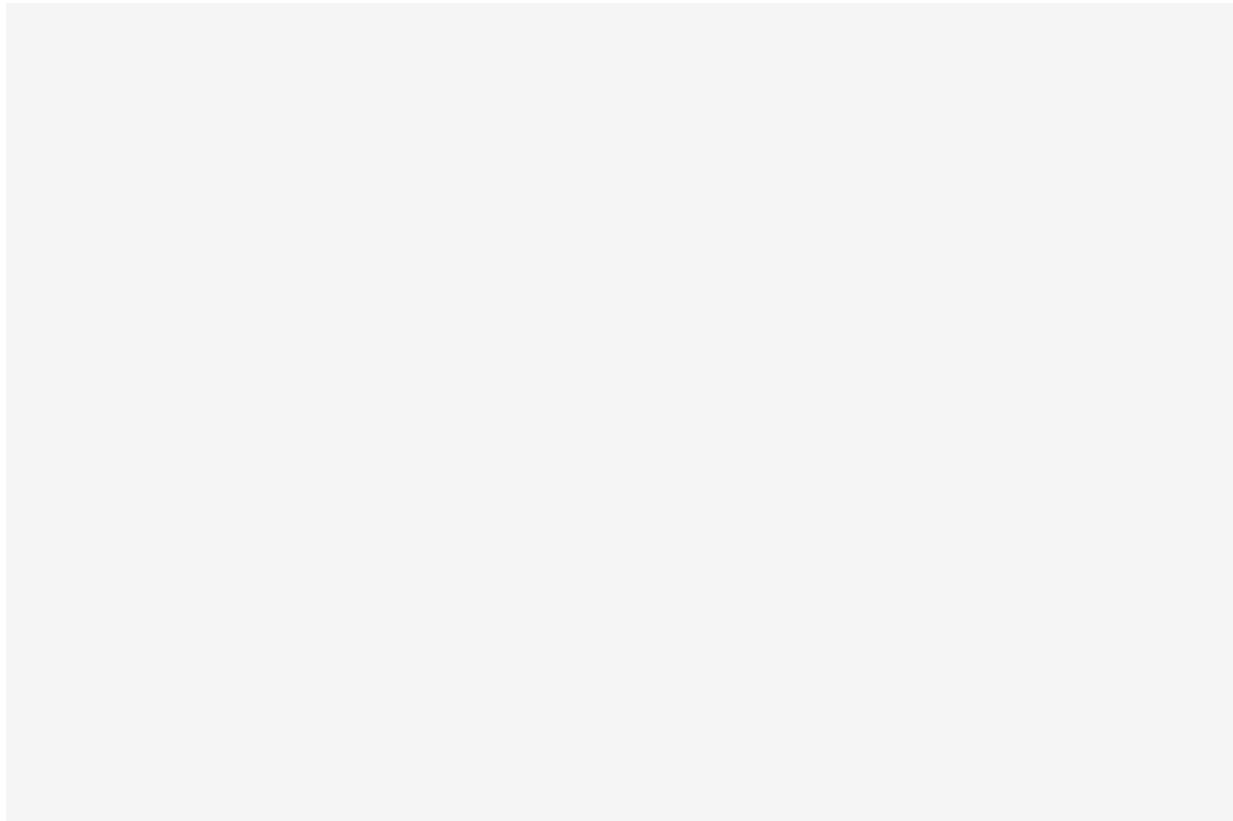
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## Trump’s Justice Department Won’t Promise Not to Expose FBI Agents

The Department of Justice is refusing to promise that it won’t put its own agents at risk.



Stefani Reynolds/Bloomberg/Getty Images

Justice Department lawyers refused Thursday to ensure that a list of FBI agents who had worked on January 6 cases wouldn't have their names revealed as retribution for investigating and arresting a violent cohort of Donald Trump's supporters, according to a new report from [NOTUS](#).

On Monday, FBI employees were forced to respond to a questionnaire probing their involvement in the nearly 2,400 cases that stemmed from the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

While the agents involved hadn't committed any partisanship or wrongdoing by simply doing their jobs, it's not clear that Trump, who pardoned 1,500 rioters upon returning to office, will see it that way.

Acting FBI Director Brian Driscoll, who was appointed [wholly by accident](#), has emerged as a staunch defender of agents involved in the January 6 investigations and refused to turn over the list of names. Instead, he presented only their employee ID numbers.

FBI special agents have already filed two lawsuits to protect the identities of those on the list. In D.C. District Court Thursday, lawyers representing the FBI employees argued that the information could potentially be weaponized by Trump, Elon Musk, or the Department of Government Efficiency.

But lawyers for the Justice Department wouldn't give a straight answer when asked by District Court Judge Jia M. Cobb whether the names would be kept confidential, noting that it wasn't out of the ordinary for FBI agents to have their names made public in court papers.

"We need to consult with our superiors," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeremy Simon, according to NOTUS. Later, in an email, prosecutors said simply that they currently had no "intention" to publish the names and would notify the federal judge if they changed their minds.

Pamela M. Keith, the attorney representing nine anonymous FBI employees, said that the department's unwillingness to promise that the names wouldn't be released was something that "stood out" to her, NOTUS reported.

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[CIA Sets Off Security Crisis With One Email to Trump's White House](#)

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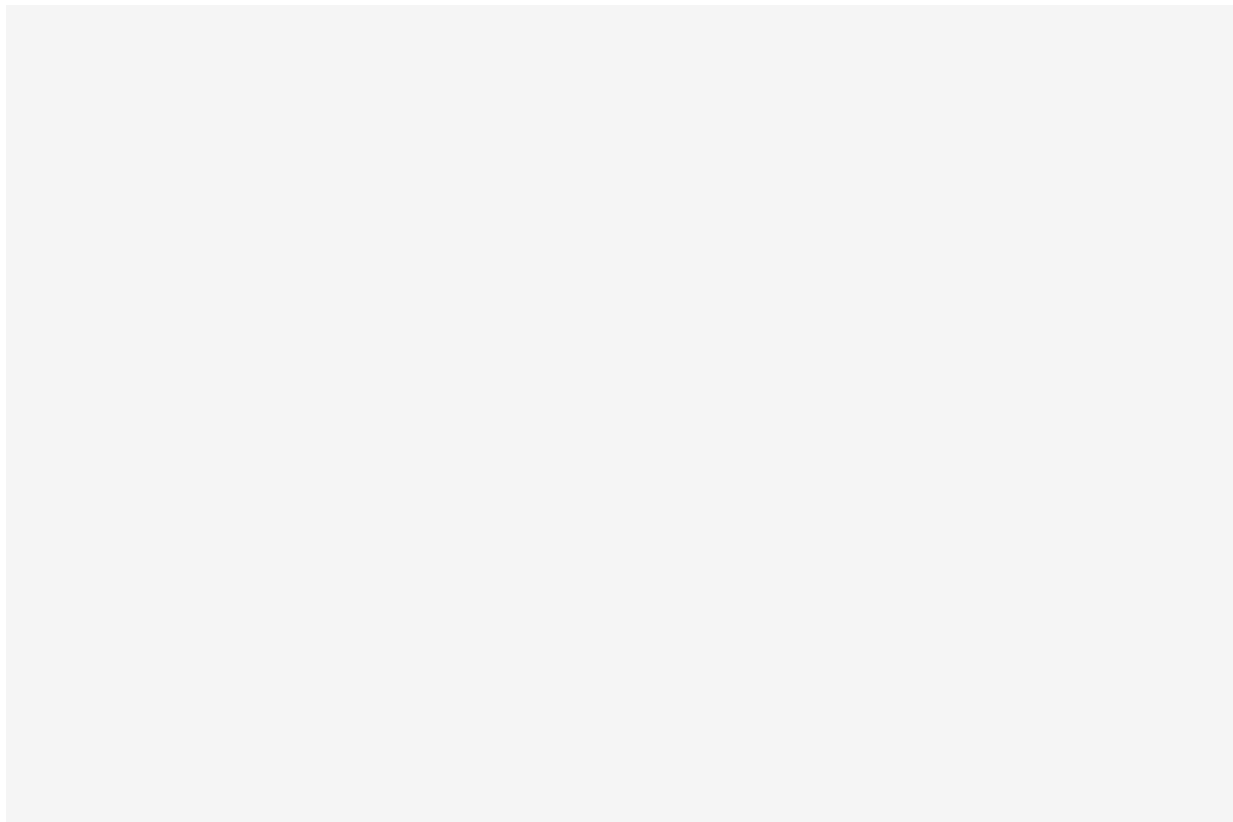
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## Trump and Elon Musk's Anti-Government Blitz Just Hit Another Roadblock

**A federal judge put the Trump administration's "Fork in the Road" buyout offer to federal employees on hold, 11 hours before the deadline.**



Jeff Bottari/Zuffa LLC

A federal judge has suspended President Donald Trump's mass federal employee buyout scheme until at least Monday, when arguments on the program will be heard at a court hearing.

"I make no assessment at this stage of the merits of the claims," Judge George O'Toole Jr. said at the hearing in Boston on Thursday, [NBC News](#) reported. The Trump administration [offered](#) federal workers the choice of a return to full-time in-office work or to quit with a buyout and severance pay through September 30. An email sent at the time [stated](#) that there "will NOT be an extension of this program."

The buyout plan, also known as the "[Fork in the Road](#)" initiative due to its similarity to Elon Musk's offer to Twitter employees in 2022, has been sending shock waves throughout the federal government. Trump has been very clear that it is a direct [attempt](#) to overhaul the federal bureaucracy in his image. Over 60,000 employees, or about 3 percent of federal workers, have accepted the offer.

"We are grateful to the judge for extending the deadline so more federal workers who refuse to show up to the office can take the Administration up on this very generous, once-in-a-lifetime offer," [said](#) White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

Earlier on Thursday, a federal judge partially halted Musk's DOGE henchmen from [accessing](#) government databases, making the Boston ruling the second setback of the day for the Trump administration. But the future of this "Fork in the Road" effort remains to be seen, as it has also been [challenged](#) by multiple federal employee unions.

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[Elon Musk's Efforts to Slash and Burn Government Hits Major Obstacle](#)

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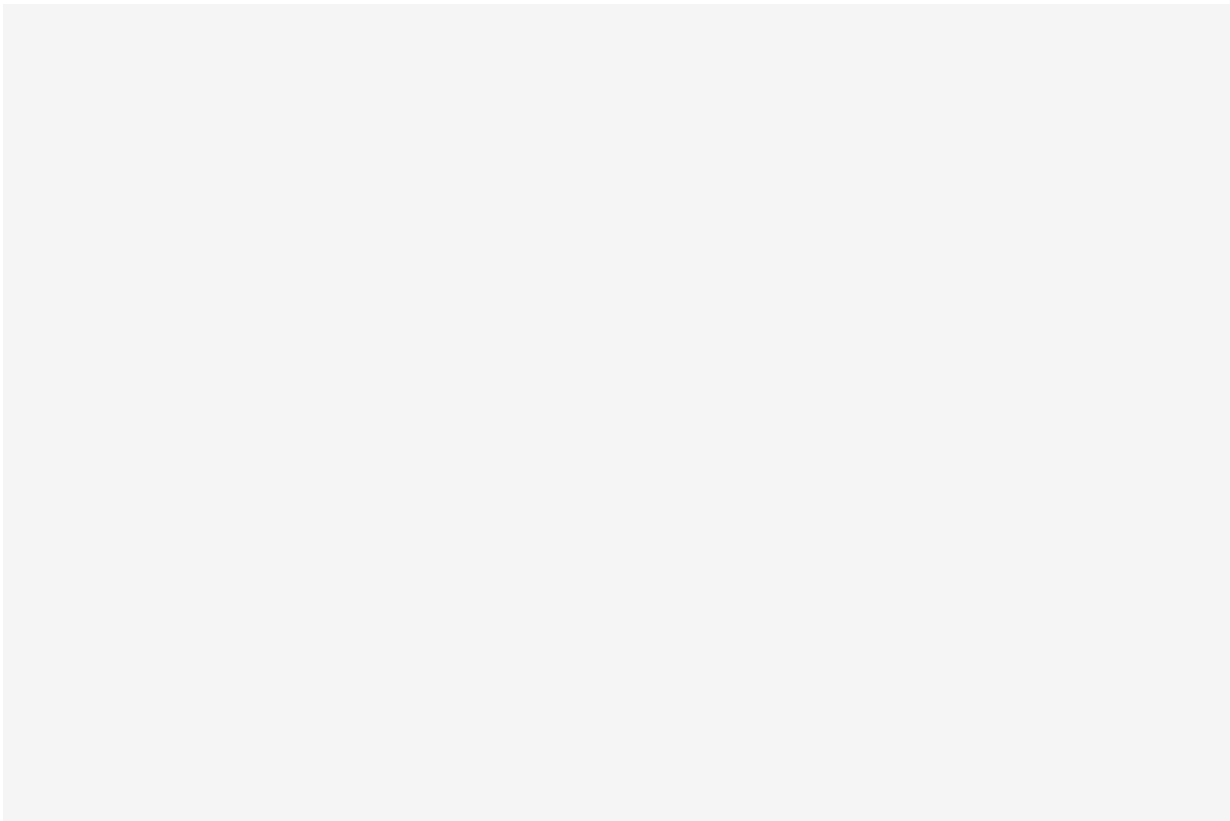
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## Elon Musk's Efforts to Slash and Burn Government Hits Major Obstacle

**A judge has pumped the brakes on Musk's running rampant through federal agencies.**



Kena Betancur/VIEWpress/Getty Images

A U.S. District Court in Washington on Thursday partially blocked Elon Musk and his DOGE groupies from further accessing government databases.

Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly approved a temporary restraining order that prevents [two DOGE-affiliated employees](#) from accessing anything other

than read-only records from the Bureau of Fiscal Service's systems.

The restricted employees are Tom Krause and Marko Elez, who will be permitted access on an "as needed" basis, according to the filing. Prior to joining Musk's federal team, Krause served as a chief executive of a Silicon Valley software company, while Elez is a 25-year-old engineer with experience at two of Musk's companies: X and SpaceX.

"The Defendants will not provide access to any payment record or payment system of records maintained by or within the Bureau of the Fiscal Service," the order reads.

The order was in response to a lawsuit filed by a coalition of labor unions against Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, alleging that the newly minted Trump appointee had provided Musk and his team "full access" to Americans' personal and financial information.

The order barred "any person who is an employee (but not a Special Government Employee) of the Department of the Treasury and who has a need for the record or system of records in the performance of their duties."

The agreement will stay in place until February 24, when both parties are expected to return to court for a long-term preliminary injunction, according to [ABC News](#).

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Read more about Elon Musk:

[Senator Has Dire Warning About Letting Elon Musk Run Wild](#)

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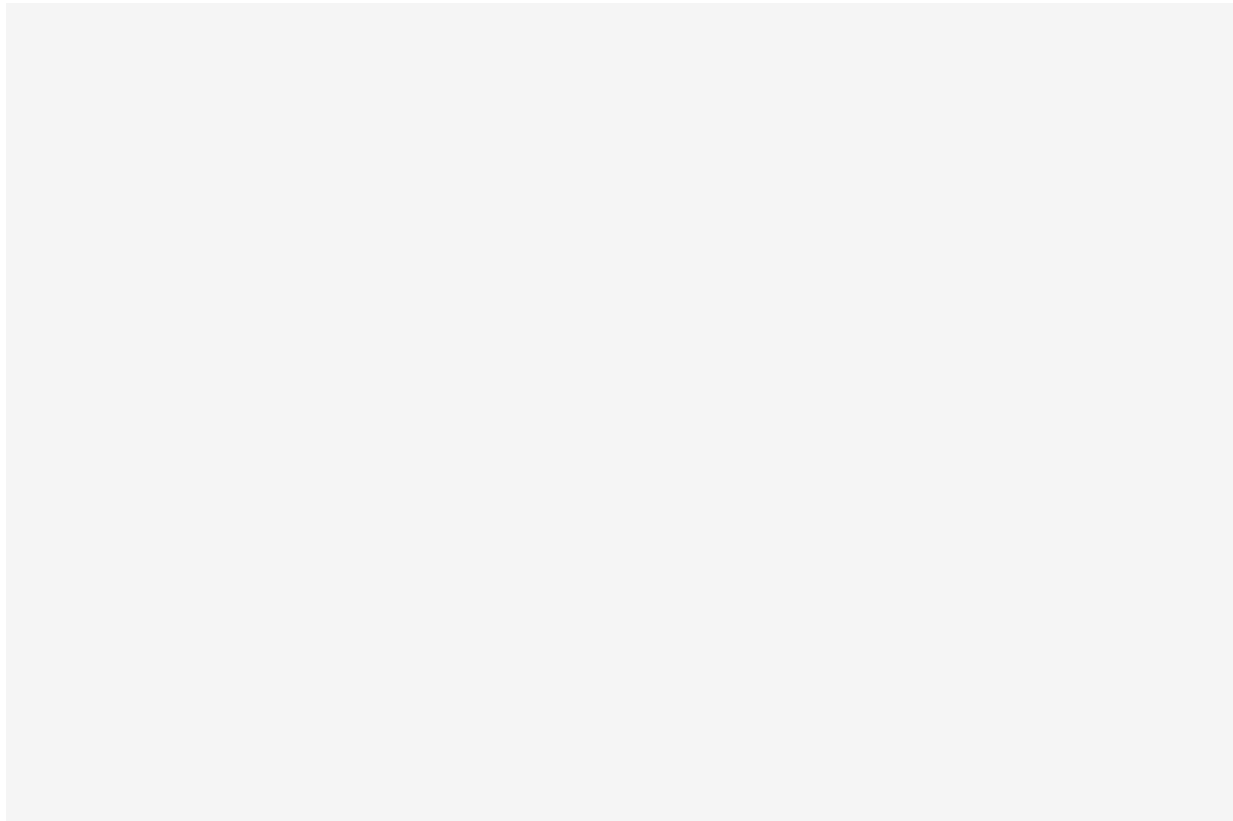
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## Senator Has Dire Warning About Letting Elon Musk Run Wild

**Ron Wyden didn't mince words about what Elon Musk and Donald Trump are up to.**





Anna Rose Layden/Getty Images

Senator Ron Wyden is calling out Donald Trump and Elon Musk for carrying out a “coup” in their slash-and-burn takeover of federal agencies.

During an [appearance](#) on The Verge’s *Decoder* podcast, Wyden, the ranking member on the Senate Finance Committee, gave a grim answer to host Nilay Patel’s intrepid question of “What the fuck is going on?”

“That is the question of the hour,” Wyden [replied](#). “And it is almost impossible to divine an answer because it moves from minute to minute. Donald Trump essentially governs by whim.”

“I’m very troubled by the type of policies that they are pursuing that when you add them up, looks and feels like a coup,” Wyden said, noting that Democrats had been trying to stop Trump and Musk where they could.

“If I were to embrace it in a sentence apropos of ‘what the hell is going on here,’ is that Trump and Musk are ignoring the checks and balances of our republic, and for all practical purposes I’d call that a coup.”

After pillaging USAID over the weekend and illegally shuttering the agency, Musk then gained access to the Treasury Department’s payments system, which could affect programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid payments, all of which fall under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee. In a [letter](#) to Wyden Tuesday, the Treasury Department insisted that Musk’s team at the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, is merely performing an audit of the system, and not, as some sources have suggested, [rewriting code](#). Wyden [told](#) *The New Republic* that the letter “reeks of a cover-up.”

“It doesn’t pass the smell test,” Wyden said to TNR.

Wyden has been sounding the alarm on the Trump-Musk takeover in other ways. In a [statement](#) Tuesday urging his colleagues to vote against the confirmation of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, Wyden said that what the U.S. is witnessing is nothing short of “an authoritarian takeover of our federal government by Donald Trump and Elon Musk.”

“They’ve set their sights on a full purge of anyone in government that doesn’t bend the knee and follow their orders,” he said in the statement, saying that their actions had “dubious legal and constitutional authority, and flies in the face of Congressional authority.”

*Decoder*’s full interview with Wyden will be published Monday.

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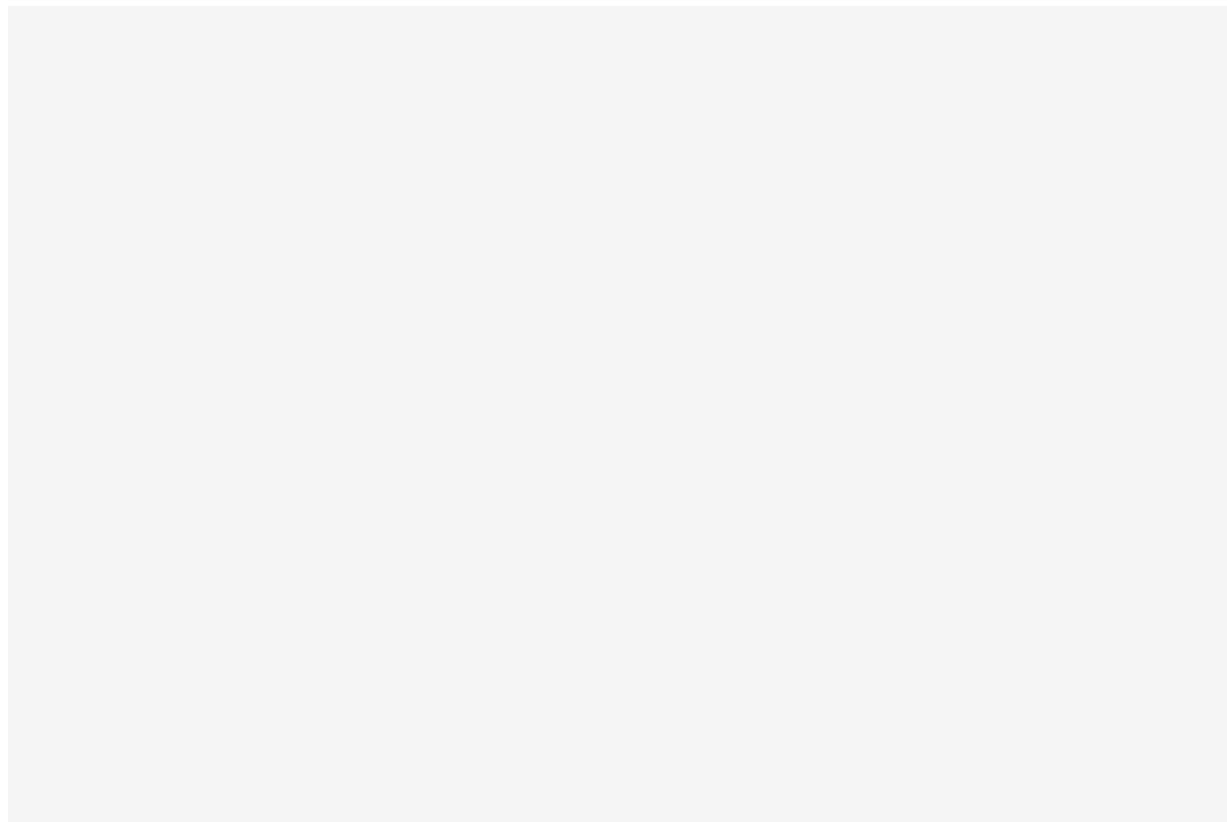
What Trump and Elon have been doing:  
[Elon Musk Has Broken the Constitutional Order](#)

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## “Disgusted” Democratic Voters Are Blowing Up Congress’s Phones

Democrats in Congress are getting flooded with angry pleas to fight Trump’s lawless moves.



DREW ANGERER/AFP/Getty Images  
People protest against Donald Trump and Elon Musk near the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.

Democratic voters are begging their elected officials to wake up.

[Axios](#) reports that congressional Democrats’ office phone lines are being overrun with calls from distressed constituents goading their representatives to push back harder against the Trump administration. The callers are angry that President Trump is “[flooding the zone](#)” with a flurry of spiteful and potentially illegal policies targeted at, but not limited to, nonwhite [immigrants](#), the [LGBTQ](#) community, [Black Americans](#), the [disabled](#), and the [federal bureaucracy](#).

Members of Congress told Axios that they hadn’t received this many calls since events like the [October 7 attack](#) on Israel, the Brett Kavanaugh hearings, or the Trump impeachment hearings.

“I can’t recall ever receiving this many calls,” Massachusetts Representative Jim McGovern told Axios. “People disgusted with what’s going on, and they want us to fight back.”

Wisconsin Representative Mark Pocan echoed McGovern's sentiments: "We had the most calls we've ever had in one day on Monday in 12 years." Maryland Representative Steny Hoyer said his office is receiving "hundreds, maybe thousands" of calls.

Democrats [struggled to respond](#) last week as Trump signed a flurry of destructive executive orders. But after a week of furious phone calls, Democrats are starting to [fight back](#).

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[The #Resistance Lives. It Just Looks Different This Time.](#)

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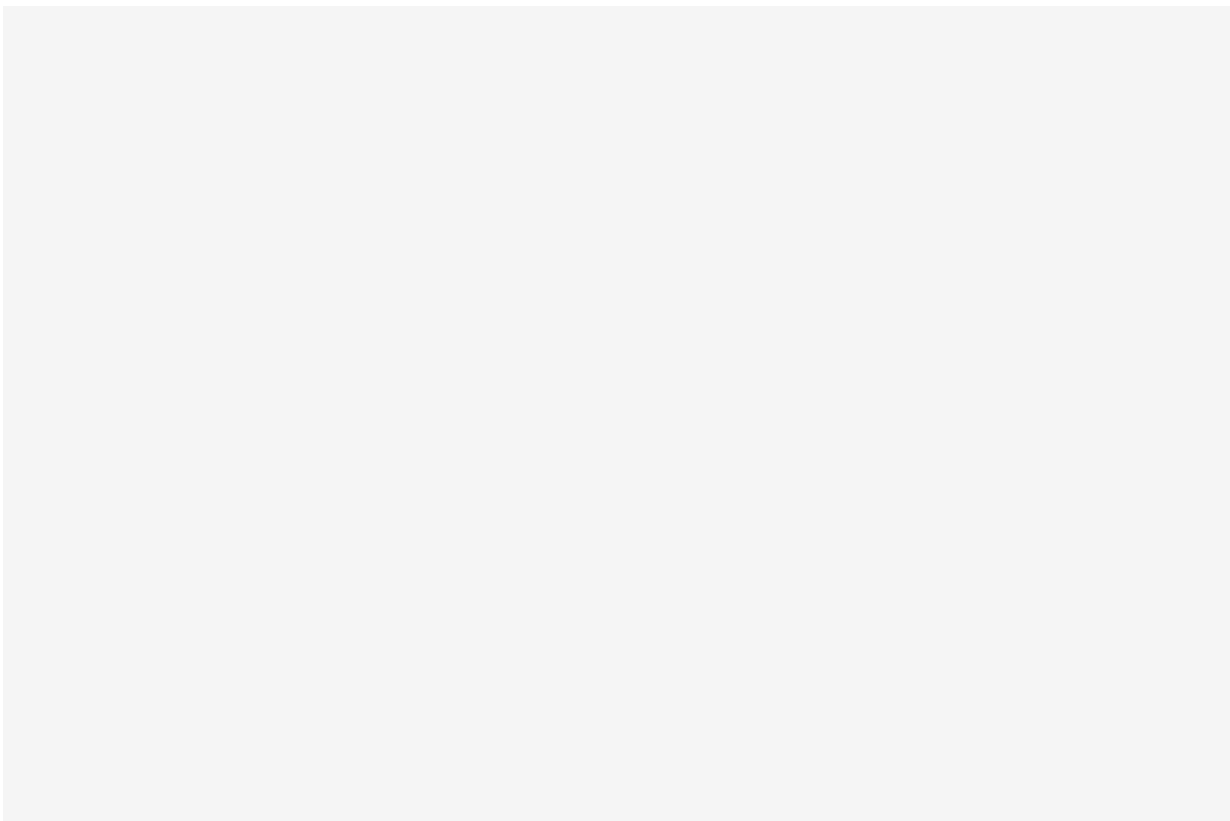
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## **Elon Musk's Ego Sure to Get Massive Blow from Stunning Poll Results**

**Here's just how unpopular Elon Musk is.**



It looks like Elon Musk isn't winning any popularity contests anytime soon. New polling has found that the billionaire technocrat has fallen out of favor with, well, everyone (including Republicans).

Republicans are reportedly losing faith in Musk, who Donald Trump appointed to lead the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, which is currently on a [slash-and-burn campaign](#) through several essential federal agencies.

At first, Republicans were on board with Musk's radical plan to eradicate government agencies. In a poll from [The Economist/YouGov](#) taken in the days after the 2024 presidential election, 47 percent of Republicans said that they wanted Musk to have "a lot" of influence in Trump's administration. Twenty-nine percent said they wanted him to have "a little" influence, and just 12 percent said they hoped he'd have "none at all."

But less than a month into Trump's reign in the White House—and his shadow president's nefarious efforts to ruin everything—it seems that Republican voters aren't so sweet on the unelected bureaucrat running rampant through the federal government. A new poll published Wednesday from [The Economist/YouGov](#) found that now only 26 percent of Republicans want Musk to have "a lot" of influence, a drop of 21 points. By contrast, 43 percent of Republican respondents said they wanted Musk to have "a little" influence, and 17 percent said they wanted his hands out of government altogether.

So what exactly is happening?

It seems that the more people learn about Musk, the less they like him—at least, according to a new [Hart Research survey](#) published Wednesday by Groundwork Collective and Public Citizen. The poll asked respondents about how much influence they felt Musk should have in government, explaining aspects of his role in DOGE, his lack of oversight, and his far-reaching access.

By the end of the survey, 63 percent of voters reported having an unfavorable opinion of Musk, an increase of nine points from the beginning of the survey. Meanwhile, only 32 percent of respondents had a favorable opinion, which was down 7 percent from the start, and showed a major negative swing among non-MAGA Republicans.

As beloved as Musk may be among the MAGA crowd, it's not clear that he appeals to voters in general, which could prove to be a problem for Trump, who claims to have a mandate from the American people to do whatever the hell he wants.

Respondents seemed disturbed by the extent to which Musk had permeated the Trump administration. Fifty-seven percent of respondents said that Musk had too much influence and involvement in the government. Of the voters who were familiar with DOGE, 60 percent said Musk had too much power.

Sixty-one percent of respondents said that they were less favorable toward Musk's role with DOGE because he was not bound by any rules about conflicts of interest. On Wednesday, the White House reaffirmed that the SpaceX CEO would [self-determine](#) when he had a conflict of interest.

Fifty-six percent of respondents said that they had an unfavorable view of Musk's role with DOGE, considering the group's unfettered access to all unclassified records, software systems, and I.T. systems across federal agencies.

Over the weekend, DOGE employees [raided](#) USAID offices for access to personnel files and payment information, shortly before every employee was placed on administrative leave. Every hour, it seems DOGE employees gain access to the files of a new federal agency. Musk's team recently gained access to Treasury Department files for an "operational efficiency assessment."

Two sources told [WIRED](#) that one of Musk's twentysomething-year-old engineers had the ability not just to read but to write code on the Treasury's extremely sensitive Payment Automation Manager and Secure Payment System at the Bureau of the Fiscal Service. The Treasury Department [insisted](#) Tuesday that Musk's access was "read-only."

In general, a majority of voters just don't like the DOGE czar at all. According to Hart Research, 54 percent of voters had an unfavorable view of Musk, including 40 percent who found him very unfavorable.

Lawmakers said they have been overwhelmed by calls from constituents across the country [concerned](#) about the Musk-Trump takeover.

"The U.S. Senate phone system has been receiving around 1,600 calls each minute, compared to the 40 calls per minute we usually receive, which has disrupted our call systems," [wrote](#) Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski in a post on X Wednesday.

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Read more about Musk:

[Trump Admin Invites Elon Musk and DOGE to Wreck Country's Planes Next](#)

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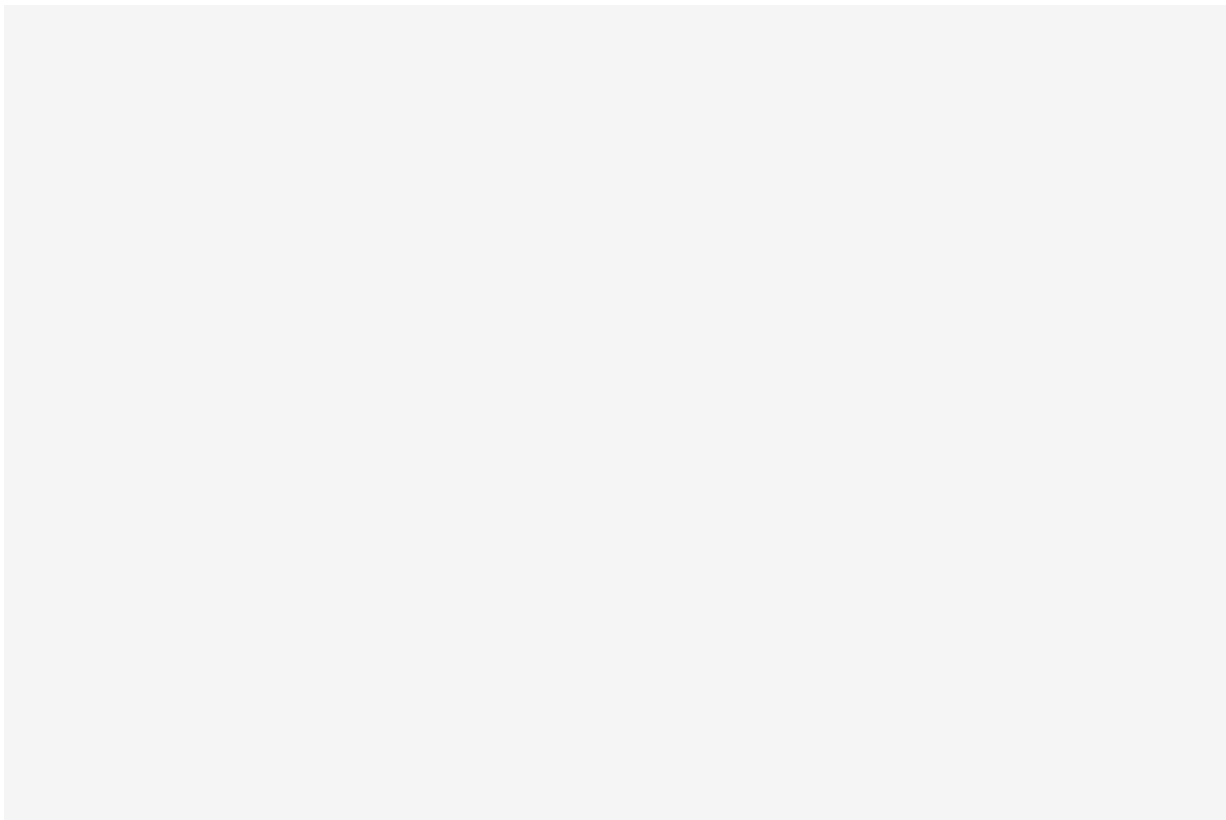
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## Nancy Pelosi Gets a Surprising New Primary Challenger

**Saikat Chakrabarti, AOC's former chief of staff, thinks the Democrats need a bolder vision.**



Celal Gunes/Getty Images

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's ex-chief of staff has announced his intention to primary Representative Nancy Pelosi in an attempt to redefine the Democratic Party.

Saikat Chakrabarti, 39, who previously worked in the tech sector and for Senator Bernie Sanders before joining Ocasio-Cortez's staff, [announced](#) his 2026 candidacy for California's 11th congressional district Wednesday in an X post.

"I've got some news: I've decided to run against Nancy Pelosi to represent San Francisco in Congress. I know some of you might be surprised that Speaker Emeritus Pelosi is running again, but she is—for her 21st term!" Chakrabarti's post read.

The former congressional staffer went on to describe the rift between the Democratic Party's older, neoliberal leadership and its younger, progressive members.

"I respect what Nancy Pelosi has accomplished in her career, but we are living in a totally different America than the one she knew when she entered politics 45 years ago," Chakrabarti continued. "In an interview with Ezra Klein after Trump's victory, Pelosi said the Democrats don't need to change. I disagree. When Democrats were about to appoint their star communicator—Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez—to chair the

powerful Oversight committee to hold Trump and his cronies accountable, Pelosi personally intervened to block it.”

While Pelosi has yet to publicly announce her 2026 candidacy, she has filed the requisite paperwork to run. And even with the former House speaker’s age (she’ll be 86 in March 2026), Chakrabarti still faces an uphill battle in San Francisco, which Pelosi has represented for nearly 40 years in Congress.

“When Nancy Pelosi was first elected to Congress, you could buy a home on a single income. A summer job could pay for college. Republicans believed in climate change and respected election results,” Chakrabarti’s [announcement](#) said. “Now, the things that defined the American Dream—being able to afford health care, education, a home, and raise a family—are impossible for most people.... The Democratic Party needs to stop acting like it’s competing against a normal political party that plays by the rules, and it needs a bold vision for how to raise living standards, quality of life and security for all Americans.”

The winner of the district’s Democratic primary is almost certain to carry the general election as well, as Pelosi easily won reelection in 2024 with [81 percent of the vote](#).

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[Primary Every Democrat](#)

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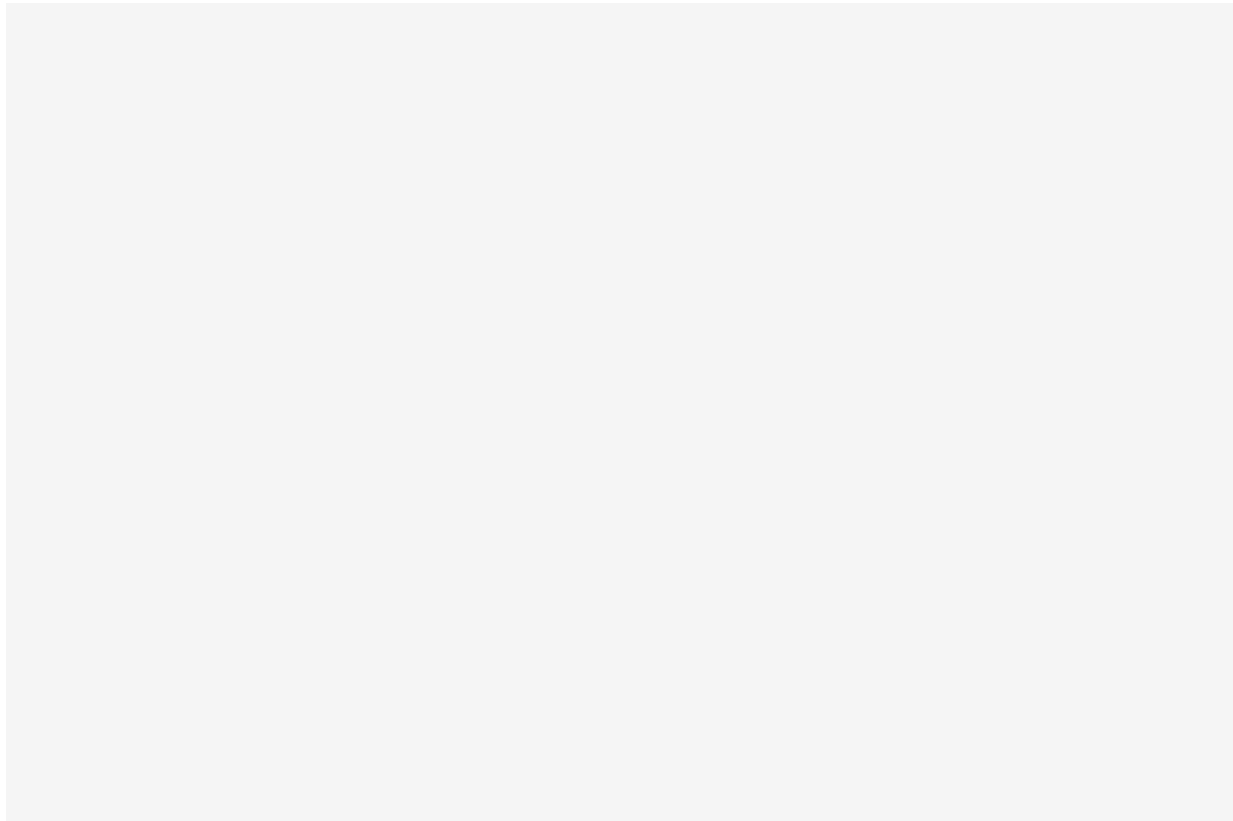
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## Proud Boys Leader Has a Terrifying Plan for His Future

Enrique Tarrio promised “retribution.” Here’s how he plans to get it.



Joe Raedle/Getty Images

An ex-incarcerated organizer of the far-right Proud Boys has lofty aspirations for his future.

In an interview with Newsmax’s Greg Kelly, Proud Boy leader Enrique Tarrio pitched a run for office, boasting that he had already elevated himself from prison to Mar-a-Lago in a span of two weeks.

“Last time I was on, I told you that I was gonna take some time, and I was going to really think about what I was going to do,” [said](#) Tarrio. “And I think my future is in politics. I think I’m gonna take a serious look at running for office at some point in 2026 or 2028, and I believe that there is a path for that because it is my passion.”

Tarrio then went on to say that he had made up his mind to run for office, though he wasn’t sure exactly what office that would be.

“Is it gonna be local? Is it gonna be at a federal level? I don’t know, but I will tell you that I have made a decision,” he said.

Tarrio received a 22-year prison sentence for seditious conspiracy charges over his role in the January 6 attack.

In 2021, a federal prosecutor, an FBI agent, and Tarrio’s own lawyer described Tarrio as an informant for local and federal law enforcement, helping authorities nab “more than a dozen people in various cases involving drugs, gambling and human smuggling” before he was arrested in 2012, according to [Reuters](#).

In an interview with the network after Trump [pardoned](#) Tarrio alongside 1,500 other January 6 rioters, Tarrio said he was “jubilant.” Trump’s spontaneous decision to legally forgive his most ardent and violent supporters overrode his administration’s internal debate on the issue and amounted to little more than a “fuck it” moment for the president, according to a White House adviser who spoke with [Axios](#).

Two weeks ago, in an interview with Alex Jones, Tarrio [promised](#) “retribution” against people who worked on prosecuting January 6 cases.

“We’ve got to do everything in our power to make sure that the next four years sets us up for the next 100 years,” he said.

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Some good news about the Proud Boys:

[The Proud Boys Just Lost Use of Their Own Name in the Funniest Way](#)

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