

TRUMP'S FIRST MONTHS IN OFFICE: A FACT SHEET

In his first months in office Trump and his administration have taken rapid action on a wide range of issues. His executive orders pose clear threats to our democracy, the wellbeing of many Americans, and the future of our planet. Many of us want to push back but feel powerless. That's exactly what Trump wants.

So we made this fact sheet to distill the key issues, cut through the disinformation, and suggest steps that anyone can take to protect our democracy. This is the short version of a longer report.

EXECUTIVE POWER GRAB

The facts: Trump's second term started with a rush of 108 executive orders (EOs), bypassing democratic procedures and norms. The aim is to maximize the President's power which he has done by questioning the independence of federal agencies and the legitimacy of courts (for example, by ignoring judges' orders and calling for their impeachment instead). This is the playbook of Project 2025.

Why it matters: The three branches of government and their checks and balances were created in order to prevent our nation from dictatorship. The current attempts consolidate executive power and seek to remove legal roadblocks, supercharging the country towards becoming an "electoral autocracy."

What you can do:

Engage in pro-democracy groups like Indivisible and 50501. Support Democracy Forward and the ACLU who have filed lawsuits against these EOs. Subscribe to the daily "Chop Wood, Carry Water" newsletter. Urge your Congresspeople to introduce legislation to close the billionaires' gateways to power.

DISMANTLING THE STATE

The facts: The unofficial "Department of Government Efficiency" (**DOGE**), led by billionaire Elon Musk, has gutted federal agencies without the authority of the Congress or the Courts. The first victims were U.S. foreign humanitarian efforts (USAID), which have been essentially rendered "non-operational." DOGE has also targeted an array of other agencies, including the Dept. of Education, the Social Security Adm., and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, impacting over 24,000 federal employees. Some of this has been temporarily halted by court orders, but chaos and destruction continue.

Why it matters: Dismantling USAID leads to suffering and death, regional destabilization, and conflict. But USAID was a mere guinea pig for other US public institutions. These cuts undermine public trust and put many Americans in jeopardy. To top it off, the cuts don't even save costs.

What you can do:

Volunteer time and donate money to groups focused on replacing services that are now being cut. This list published by the Center for Global Development is a good place to start with regards to USAID.

WAR ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)

The facts: Trump issued EOs to end DEI programs, put staff on leave, and purged vital information from 8,000 federal websites. Symbolic references honoring women, people of color, or values of diversity have been removed. Schools and universities have been targeted and could lose federal funding. Corporations have also come under scrutiny.

Why it matters: Trump falsely attributes plane crashes and wildfires to DEI, with the goal of justifying the systematic removal of women and people of color from federal positions, while also dismantling vital programs that support marginalized groups.

What you can do:

Boycott corporations that ended their DEI programs, join employee resource groups and at your school, company, and communities for DEI initiatives, emphasize respect and empathy in the workplace. Join efforts to secure and archive information from website purges.

IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN, ICE RAIDS, AND ILLEGAL DEPORTATIONS

The facts: On his first day in office, Trump issued ten EOs that sought to transform our immigration system. He ended birthright citizenship for many. He's deported undocumented migrants to Guantanamo Bay en masse. He also invoked the obscure Alien Enemies Act for the first time other than during war-time to deport alleged gang members to a mega-prison in El Salvador, known as black hole for human rights, without any trial or evidence. Green Card and Visa holders have had their status revoked for unclear reasons, for support for Palestine, or were denied entry for criticizing Trump's policies. Britain issued a travel warning as a result. While courts blocked many actions, many have been ignored.

Why it matters: Immigrants are a vital part of our society and deserve to be treated with dignity and given the legal protections to which they are entitled. Birthright citizenship is a long established right, central to American identity as most agree. This crackdown is wildly chaotic, with many being wrongfully detained by ICE raiders or sent to foreign prisons. Racial profiling creates an atmosphere of fear in migrant communities. The attacks on Green Card and Visa holders, like Mahmoud Khalil, demonstrate that the administration will not stop at legal immigrants.

What you can do:

As a migrant, stay up to date on your rights and be prepared to seek legal counsel. As an ally, report ICE sightings and share them in your community. Write to Congress, state attorneys and go to town meetings—do not be silent! Engage locally to protect you city's or state's status as a sanctuary. Support the ACLU's legal fights and look into local organizations.

END TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

The facts: Trump signed EOs inhibiting access to gender-affirming care for minors. He also removed public recognition of non-binary or trans identities, impacting IDs and removing many federal websites. He has signed EOs to ban trans girls and women from competing on women's sports teams and serving in the military.

Why it matters: Almost 1 in 10 Americans identify as L.G.B.T.Q. Many more have someone affected by these rulings in their close personal circles. These EOs deny essential rights, freedoms, and means for self-determination and may lead to acute mental-health repercussions.

What you can do:

Use resources like this zine by the Trans Resistance Network. Look to organizations like the Transgender Law Center, Advocates for Trans Equality, and the Human Rights Campaign for current information. Advocate for local protections in schools and beyond.

SLASHING CLIMATE REGULATIONS

The facts: 65 climate efforts have already been scaled back or eliminated while a "national energy emergency," was fabricated to increase oil and gas production. With it came cuts at the Environmental Protection Agency to environmental justice projects and climate research. Key regulations like pollution standards, wetlands protections, and the Clean Water Act are being impacted.

Why it matters: The U.S. will be severely hit by the climate crisis, with many lives at stake and an estimated \$2 trillion in costs per year. Our access to clean water, air, and environments are in peril while big business profits. Economic and energy experts agree that the energy transition cannot be stopped by Trump's embrace of fossil fuels, but costs will be raised for Americans and our economy will suffer.

What you can do:

Donate to organizations like the Environmental Defense Fund. Get involved in local activism with groups like 350.org or the Sunrise Movement. Consider joining community solar initiatives to take the energy transition into your hands. Fight to protect local nature and build supports like food forests and community gardens.

WITHDRAWAL FROM PARIS CLIMATE ACCORDS

The facts: For the second time, Trump is withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Agreement established in 2016 to mobilize a global effort to mitigate climate change. The move puts the U.S. in the company of Iran, Libya, and Yemen as the only nations not participating.

Why it matters: Considering our hefty carbon footprint, this is a severe blow to coordinated climate efforts. We'll also lose touch with the rest of the world that will continue to transition towards a carbon-free future.

What you can do:

A coalition of states formed the "U.S. Climate Alliance," committed to upholding their pledges to the Paris Agreement. Urge your state Reps to join the Alliance.

WITHDRAWAL FROM WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The facts: On day one, Trump announced our exit from the World Health Organization (WHO). The new head of Health and Human Services, RFK Jr., has been given permission to “go wild on health,” and has publicly questioned vaccines, abortion medications, and antidepressants.

Why it matters: The WHO is crucial for responding to global health crises, and our exit will cut a deep hole into its financing. We'll also lose access to vital public health data. RFK Jr. will likely restrict access to proven medical interventions, costing lives, as seen in the recent measles outbreak, a disease once eradicated due to vaccines.

What you can do:

Talk to your healthcare provider about access to vaccines, and stay up to date. Continue to share information about the effectiveness of vaccines and medicine.

PARDONING JANUARY 6TH RIOTERS

The facts: Trump commuted the sentences of over 1,500 criminal defendants charged in the Jan. 6th attack on the Capitol. Police Associations and most Americans disagree with the pardons.

Why it matters: These attacks were an attempt to undermine democracy by preventing the certification of duly elected Joe Biden. They also resulted in \$2.9 million in damages and 140 injured law enforcement officers.

What you can do:

Check interactive maps of Oath Keeper and Proud Boys members so that you can organize to keep your community safe.

TARIFFS AND TRADE WARS

The facts: Trump imposed 25% tariffs on products from Canada (10% on Canadian energy) and Mexico, as well as 10% tariffs on goods from China. CAN and MEX immediately reacted by threatening retaliatory tariffs. These tariffs were temporarily paused after both countries offered and reiterated concessions regarding drug trade control. Early March saw the brief reinstatement of the tariffs and a subsequent pause. There are active tariffs on steel and aluminum, triggering a trade war with the EU.

Why it matters: These on-and-off tariffs jeopardize trade relations and hurt the U.S. economy, with a projected rise in inflation, volatile stock market, and potential recession. There have been boycotts on U.S. products and tourism.

What you can do:

Buy local and support local production, where possible. Participate in economic blackout weeks and boycott complicit corporations.

SUPPORT FOR RUSSIA AND RELATIONS WITH UKRAINE

The facts: Trump bucked allies and made concessions to Putin before negotiations began. He's also parroted false claims: Blaming Ukraine for the war and calling President Zelensky a dictator. The U.S. has sided with Russia in UN resolutions, while threatening European allies. In a heated White House meeting, Trump accused Zelensky of “gambling with World War 3” and being ungrateful for U.S. aid, which he then temporarily withdrew. Trump and Zelensky spoke on the 19th and brokered a 30 day pause on attacks.

Why it matters: If Trump hands Putin victory, it will destabilize geopolitics and boost authoritarianism. U.S. meddling in European elections, such as J.D. Vance and Elon Musk seeking to amplify the pro-Russian ultra-right AfD-party in Germany, are a threat to democracy worldwide.

What you can do:

Boycott all businesses and products related to Elon Musk. Show solidarity with Ukraine symbolically or financially by donating to groups like Razom for Ukraine which supports those effected, including Ukrainian refugees in the U.S.

CONTROL OF GAZA AND ELSEWHERE

The facts: Along with proposing U.S. control of Greenland and Canada, Trump has also expressed desire to control the Gaza Strip and turn it into the “Riviera of the Middle East.” There is no support for this motion in the region; still, Trump is adamant. The war in Gaza has resumed with devastating outcomes.

Why it matters: These actions raise concerns of both ethnic cleansing and the violation of international law. A proposed takeover of Gaza would likely destabilize the world for a long-time to come, strengthen terrorist groups, and impede efforts for lasting peace in the Middle East.

What you can do:

Call your Reps to put pressure on the Administration to stop these plans, and support humanitarian aid in Gaza directly by donating money.