

Latest News in USA



House Democrats to Begin Efforts Seeking to Remove Trump

Natalie Andrews & Rebecca Ballhaus



Erin Scott/Reuters

WASHINGTON—House Democrats were set to begin efforts to remove President Trump from office during the last full week of his presidency following the riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Democrats on Monday will first introduce a resolution calling for Vice President Mike Pence to use the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to remove Mr. Trump from office, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.) said in a letter to her caucus.

The House, which was set to be in recess this week, will attempt to pass the resolution by unanimous consent, which can be blocked if any one lawmaker objects. If the resolution fails to pass by unanimous consent, Mrs. Pelosi will reconvene the full House for a vote. If the resolution is approved and Mr. Pence doesn't act to remove Mr. Trump from office within 24 hours, the House will proceed to impeachment.

With just nine days left in Mr. Trump's presidency, many lawmakers say it's imperative that they press ahead with efforts to remove the president for encouraging a mob that last Wednesday scaled the walls of the U.S. Capitol and stormed the building, interrupting a joint session of Congress in a riot that left five people dead.

"What this president did was unconscionable, and he needs to be held accountable," said House Rules Committee Chairman Jim McGovern (D., Mass.) on CNN on Monday. "I expect that he will be impeached."

Mr. Pence isn't expected to move forward with a 25th Amendment process, people familiar with his thinking said. The 25th Amendment, ratified in 1967, lays out the details of presidential succession in the event that a president dies or becomes ill.

One section of the amendment allows for the vice president to take over the president's duties if the vice president and the majority of the cabinet determine that the president "is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office."

That section of the amendment has never before been invoked, and it could set off a clash between the president and his No. 2. Congress would get the final say over whether the vice president can maintain the president's powers, which would be decided by a two-thirds majority. Republicans have enough seats to block an incapacity vote in each house of Congress.

Since releasing a statement criticizing Twitter for banning his account on Friday, the president hasn't issued any comments or appeared in public, a contrast to his typical barrage of tweets on any given weekend.

First lady Melania Trump issued a statement Monday in which she condemned last week's violence but also took aim at her critics. "I find it shameful that surrounding these tragic events there has been salacious gossip, unwarranted personal attacks, and false misleading accusations on me—from people who are looking to be relevant and have an agenda," she said.

Several of the president's allies have broken with Mr. Trump since Wednesday's riot, with some Republicans calling for him to resign and others saying they would consider supporting impeachment.

Mick Mulvaney, a former congressman who served as Mr. Trump's acting chief of staff until March, said in a Fox News interview Sunday that he would seriously consider supporting impeachment if he were still a member of Congress and said lawmakers would view a second impeachment "very differently."

The unprecedented second impeachment has gathered quick support among House Democrats, with 210 signed on to a resolution that accuses Mr. Trump of inciting an insurrection, according to a Democratic aide. A total of 222 lawmakers are in the House Democratic caucus, and it would take 217 votes to pass an impeachment measure, with 433 House seats currently filled.

Should the House pass impeachment articles and send them to the Senate, it is highly unlikely the president will be removed before the Jan. 20 inauguration. The Senate is set to be on recess until Jan. 19, and a Senate trial could require unanimous consent to get started before Inauguration Day.

A conviction in the Senate needs the approval of two-thirds of senators, requiring significant Republican support. If all 100 senators were to vote, it would take 67 to convict, and the Senate will have 50 Democrats, suggesting they would need support from 17 Republicans.

The House could also hold on to the article of impeachment to avoid triggering a trial before Inauguration Day, and allow the new Democratic-controlled Senate to confirm

Mr. Biden's nominees and get started on his agenda, before sending an impeachment article to the Senate for a trial.

Instead of backing impeachment, more GOP lawmakers have said that Mr. Trump should resign in his final days in office.

Sen. Pat Toomey (R., Pa.) on Sunday said Mr. Trump should step down. "I think the best way for our country is for the president to resign and go away as soon as possible. I acknowledge that may not be likely, but I think that would be best," Mr. Toomey said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Some of the president's advisers, meanwhile, have begun mulling who would join the president's defense team if the House moves to impeach him.

White House counsel Pat Cipollone, who led the defense team during the president's first impeachment trial, is not expected to join the team this time, according to a person familiar with the matter, nor is Pat Philbin, Mr. Cipollone's deputy, or Jay Sekulow, or Jane and Marty Raskin, the president's personal lawyers, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Mr. Cipollone initially considered resigning after Wednesday's riot but is considered likely to stay in his post, according to people familiar with the matter.

The president's defense team, according to the person familiar with discussions, would likely include Rudy Giuliani, Mr. Trump's personal lawyer, and Alan Dershowitz, a constitutional-law professor who assisted the defense team for the last impeachment.

Mr. Giuliani wasn't on Mr. Trump's defense team last time because of the significant role he played in the events leading up to Mr. Trump's impeachment over his dealings with Ukraine. He also played a major role in the events for which House Democrats are seeking to impeach the president this time.

Mr. Dershowitz said in a text message Sunday that he hadn't been asked to join any team but that he would "continue to defend the First Amendment against partisan attempts to weaponize it for short time partisan advantages."

House Democrats are also discussing how to handle Republican lawmakers who they see as encouraging the mob that stormed the Capitol, possibly using the 14th Amendment that says no one should hold office who has engaged in rebellion or insurrection.

Several lawmakers sent tweets of support for pro-Trump protesters before the crowd turned violent and stormed the Capitol. Rep. Mo Brooks (R., Ala.), speaking at a rally last Wednesday ahead of the riot, asked Mr. Trump's supporters if they were willing to sacrifice their lives to build the greatest nation. Mr. Brooks told a conservative radio host after the riot that he didn't regret the comments.

*Write to Natalie Andrews at Natalie.Andrews@wsj.com
Rebecca Ballhaus at Rebecca.Ballhaus@wsj.com*

THE *Nearly 6,000 lawyers and law students call for disbarment proceedings against Cruz and Hawley*

Zack Budryk

A coalition of thousands of law students and lawyers have called for Sens. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) and Ted Cruz (R-Texas) to be disbarred for leading an objection to President-elect Joe Biden's Electoral College victory, saying the senators contributed to inciting Wednesday's deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol.



Getty Images Nearly 6,000 lawyers and law students call for disbarment proceedings against Cruz and Hawley

Hawley and Cruz, graduates of Yale and Harvard law schools respectively, have faced increasing condemnation after a mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in an attempt to overturn the election.

Former Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele specifically cited a photo of Hawley making a gesture of support to a crowd in Washington earlier in the day.

"Senators Hawley and Cruz directly incited the January 6th insurrection, repeating dangerous and unsubstantiated statements regarding the election and abetting the lawless behavior of President Trump. A violent mob attacked the U.S. Capitol. Five people have died," [the petition reads](#).

"The nation and the world watched as rioters took over the very halls and chambers that embody our democracy. Yet after the violence and terror of the day's events, Senators Hawley and Cruz still chose to stand in the chamber of the U.S. Senate and persist in their baseless objections to the will of the people," it adds.

Signers include former Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.), retired judge H. Lee Sarokin and Harvard Law professor Laurence Tribe, who has been a vocal critic of the Trump administration.

The petition was started by a group of seven Yale law students, including Daniel Ki, who [told The Washington Post](#) "we thought it was important to speak up."

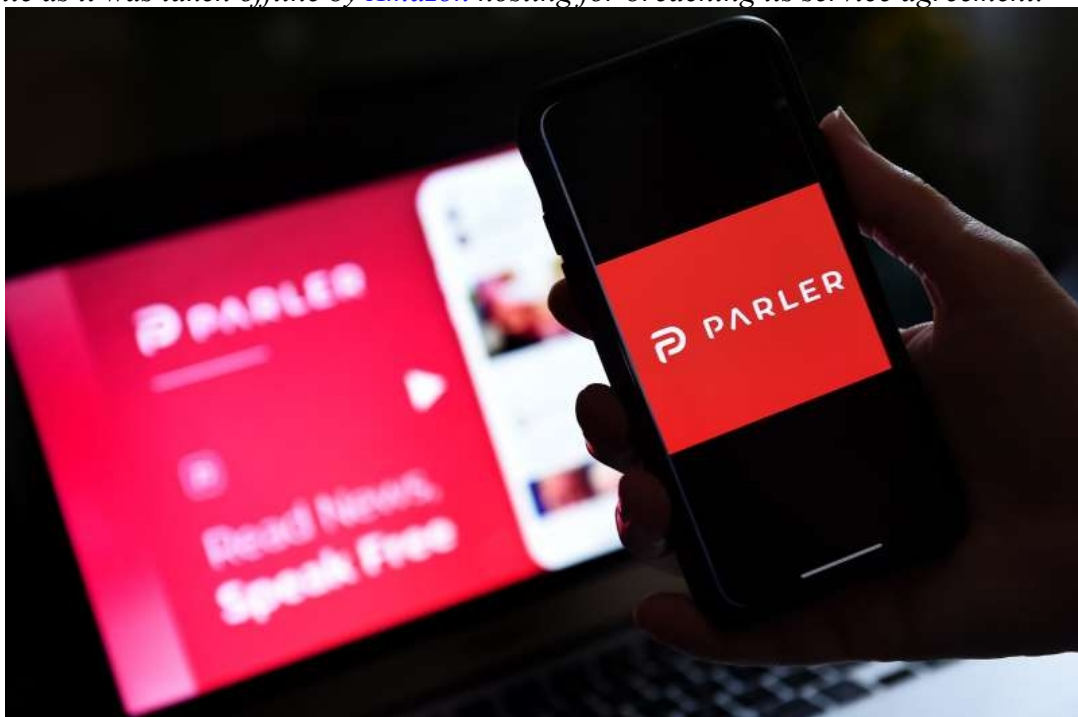
"We decided to ask other law students and members of the bar to join in the call to begin immediate disbarment proceedings against Sens. Hawley and Cruz and have been inspired and heartened by the overwhelming response," Ki told the newspaper.

Separately, Hawley and Cruz have faced calls from their Democratic colleagues to resign, including Sens. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), the chamber's No. 3 Democrat, and Sens. Chris Coons (D-Del.) and Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio).

N Parler Users Say Their Goodbyes As Site Taken Down: 'FREE SPEECH WILL WIN'

Oscar Quine

Parler users have shared their thanks and support with the self-styled "free speech" site as it was taken offline by [Amazon](#) hosting for breaching its service agreement.

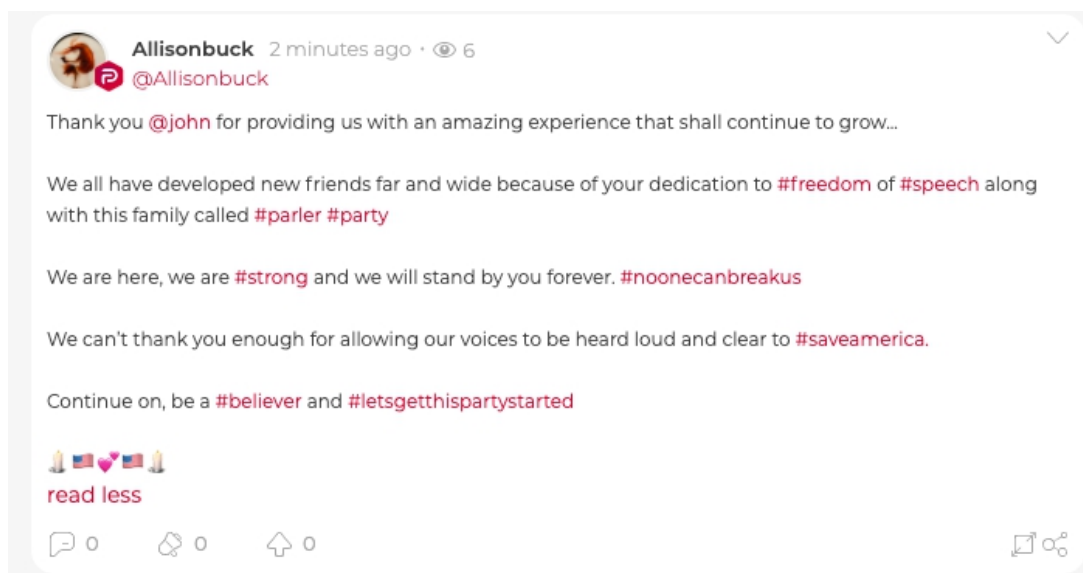


Olivier Douliery/Getty This illustration picture shows social media application logo from Parler displayed on a smartphone with its website in the background in Arlington, Virginia on July 2, 2020. The site was taken offline on Monday morning for allegedly breaching its host's user agreement

The social network was launched in 2018 and enjoys patronage from right-wing conservatives, who feel mainstream networks censor their views. Many of its users signed up after being banned or suspended from [Twitter](#). Amazon said its decision to suspend hosting services came after finding 98 posts on the site that promoted violence.

Parler had been called out in analysis of the events leading up to Wednesday's unrest in Washington. A number of users published posts promoting and coordinating violence at the 'Stop the Steal' riots.

President [Donald Trump](#) is not a member of Parler. Leading right-wing figures who do have a presence on the social network include [Fox News](#) host [Sean Hannity](#), who has seven million followers, and Texas Senator [Ted Cruz](#), who boasts 4.9 million. The site went offline just after midnight PCT today. [Google](#), [Amazon](#) and [Apple](#) had all previously removed its app from their stores.

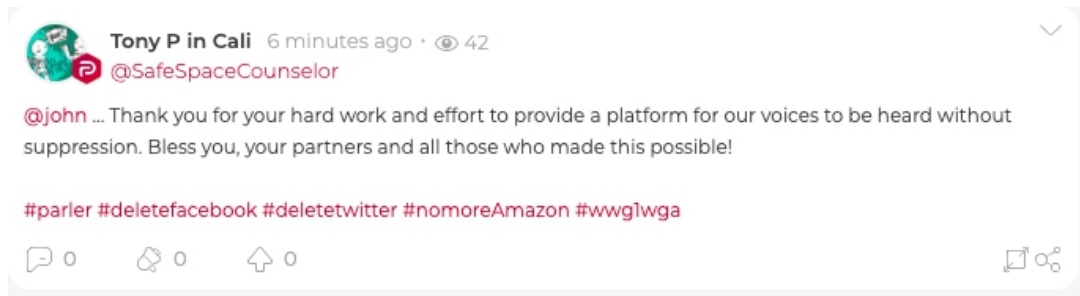


Social media site Parler was closed on Sunday after violating its web host's service agreement. Users expressed their thanks to the site's creators.

A number of users wrote farewell messages, expressing hope it would soon return. 'We all have developed new friends far and wide because of your dedication to #freedom of #speech along with this family called #parler #party,' user Alisonbuck wrote.

Aj4America, wrote: "I hope you are hustling to make it into a web app. Backup everything. Change your CLOUD and host the site yourself. You got this! I'll be checking back to see if you work."

One user, Jacob Blue, posted a video of a scene from Titanic, in which the band plays "Nearer My God to Thee" as the ship sinks, along with the message: 'Fellow Parler's... it's been an honor parleying with you. Until we meet again.'



In this message, a Parler user thanks the site's staff for their 'hard work' and for providing a space to allow for users 'to be heard without suppression'.

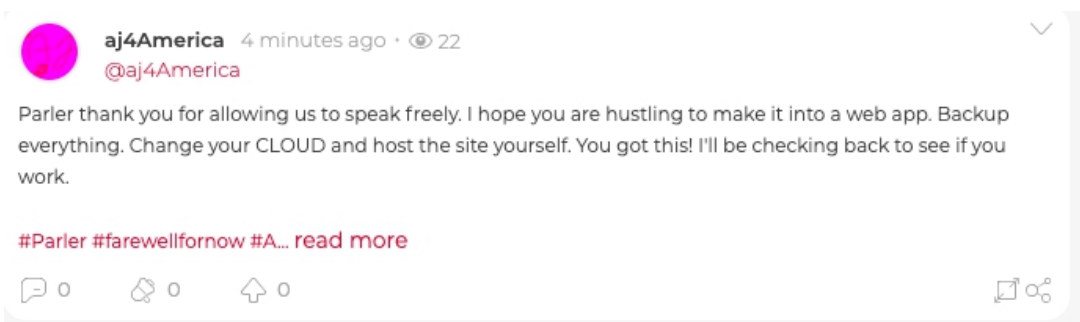
Another, Hma3, wrote: "Find me on Gab," referring to a similar social network that prides itself on providing a space for unregulated speech.

@Ishiro wrote: 'Thank you for everything you've done. Even if Amazon silences you, I will return to your platform the moment you get it up and running again, #parler #shutdown #bigtechcensorship #freespeech.'

Parler's chief executive John Matze warned that the site could be offline for up to a week while "we rebuild from scratch".

The site gained popularity as a space to discuss conspiracy theories as well as politics, with many users expressing support for the belief that November's election was rigged so that [Joe Biden](#) won unfairly.

Ahead of [Congress](#)'s meeting on January 6 to confirm Biden as president, many urged violence at the corresponding 'Stop the Steal' March in Washington. The protest ended in chaotic scenes, with the storming of the Capitol building and the deaths of five people over the course of the day.



Parler is a social media network that places very few limitations on the content its users may publish. Users urged the site's creators to relaunch the platform in a new guise.

Matze said he is now working to rescue the data of Parler's 15 million users from Amazon's servers, while looking for an alternative host for the social network. Matze wrote on Parler Saturday that he saw the removal of the site as part of an effort to "completely remove free speech from the internet".

"This was a coordinated attack by the tech giants to kill the competition in the market place. We were too successful too fast. You can expect the war on competition and free speech to continue, but don't count us out."

While [Facebook](#), Twitter and other mainstream social media platforms often refused to censor users' posts in the past, the rise of disinformation and fake news has more recently compelled them to give way on this commitment.

Parler has benefited from the new restrictions imposed by the social media giants, which allow it to present itself as a rare example of a host for free speech.



Forbes Editor Warns Companies Not to Hire Kayleigh McEnany and Other Trump 'Fabulists'

Rosemary Rossi



TheWrap Donald Trump McEnany Kellyanne Conway Sarah Sanders Sean Spicer

Forbes magazine's chief content officer delivered a stark warning to companies that might consider hiring Kayleigh McEnany, Kellyanne Conway, Sarah Huckabee Sanders and other former spokespeople in the Trump White House: Do so and risk losing all credibility given their history of perpetuating "lies-upon-lies, repeated frequently and fervently" on behalf of the president.

And what better way to punish those spreaders of untruth than by warning the businesses who hire them in the future?

"Let it be known to the business world: Hire any of Trump's fellow fabulists above, and Forbes will assume that everything your company or firm talks about is a lie," Forbes Chief Content Officer Randall Lane wrote in a piece published Thursday.

"We're going to scrutinize, double-check, investigate with the same skepticism we'd approach a Trump tweet. Want to ensure the world's biggest business media brand approaches you as a potential funnel of disinformation? Then hire away."

Lane singled out former White House press secretaries and spokespeople such as Kayleigh McEnany, Kellyanne Conway, Sarah Huckabee Sanders and Sean Spicer — noting that they have shirked their duty to tell the truth regardless of how uncomfortable that may be.

"As someone in the business of facts, it's been especially painful to watch President Trump's press secretaries debase themselves," Lane wrote. "Yes, as with their political bosses, spins and omissions and exaggerations are part of the game. But ultimately in PR, core credibility is the coin of the realm."

While Lane said he wasn't surprised by Trump's propensity for "shamelessly exaggerating and prevaricating" information, he has been shocked by "the number of people willing to lend credence to that obvious mendacity on his behalf."

Lane spoke out about the need to come clean following the deadly siege on the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.

"In this time of transition — and pain — reinvigorating democracy requires a reckoning. A truth reckoning. Starting with the people paid by the People to inform the People."

The distrust of information coming out of the White House began on day one of the Trump administration, when Spicer exaggerated the [inauguration crowd size](#), demanding people believe what he was saying and not what their eyes were seeing, Lane pointed out. And that was just the beginning.

"The next day, Kellyanne Conway defended Spicer's lie with a new term, '[alternative facts](#),'" Lane wrote.

"Spicer's successor, Sarah Huckabee Sanders lied at scale, from smearing those who accused Trump of sexual harassment to conjuring jobs statistics. Her successor, Stephanie Grisham, over the course of a year, never even held a press conference, though the BS continued unabated across friendly outlets. And finally, Kayleigh McEnany, Harvard Law graduate, a propaganda prodigy at 32 who makes smiling falsehood an art form. All of this magnified by journalists too often following an old playbook ill-prepared for an Orwellian communication era."

With a new administration on the horizon, Lane said that now is the time to "return to a standard of truth when it comes to how the government communicates with the governed. The easiest way to do that, from where I sit, is to create repercussions for those who don't follow the civic norms."

He believes that the way to do that is to not "let the chronic liars cash in on their dishonesty." And by that, he means: don't hire them.

Lane insists what he is proposing isn't cancel culture or even politically motivated. "It's just a realization that, as Daniel Patrick Moynihan famously said, in a thriving

democracy, everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but not their own facts. Our national reset starts there."

Left Wing Reporters Demand Twitter Silence Conservative Reporters That Have Done Nothing Wrong

Ashe Schow



Juan Manuel Rodriguez / EyeEm/Getty Images

Left-wing reporters have started calling on Twitter to ban their conservative competitors after the social media giant permanently suspended President Donald Trump's account.

Sarah Jeong, who briefly joined The New York Times editorial board until her three-year-old racist tweets against white people were discovered, demanded Twitter ban the account of independent journalist Andy Ngo.

Ngo is best known for documenting the left-wing extremist movement Antifa, and he has been physically attacked for his efforts.

Jeong wondered on Friday why Twitter hadn't banned Ngo, claiming that his posting of the mugshots of arrested Antifa members amounts to incitement. She pointed to an article from the Willamette Week where arrested Antifa members bemoaned the fact that Ngo posted their pictures online, which is legal since they are public information.

The Antifa members said their lives have been ruined not because of the crimes they committed and resulting arrest, but because Ngo posted their mugshots online. As Twitchy [reported](#), Ngo found Jeong's tweet even though she used asterisks in place of some of the letters of his name.

"Like many who refuse to type out the name Trump or just call him '45,' Jeong didn't even spell out Ngo's name, but he managed to find her tweet anyway, and remind us

*all that, yes, Jeong is the woman who used Twitter hashtags like #CancelWhitePeople, obviously inspired by her hatred for ‘dumbass f**king white people’ who ought to live underground ‘like groveling goblins,’” the outlet reported.*

Jeong wasn’t the only reporter demanding those she disagreed with be silenced. Yahoo News reporter Alexander Nazaryan also demanded Twitter ban several prominent conservative reporters, including The Federalist’s Mollie Hemingway and Fox News’ Tucker Carlson. Neither have violated Twitter rules or called for violence.

Hemingway has spent years exposing the Russia-collusion hoax perpetrated by Democrats and their media supporters and broke numerous stories relating to the dubious sexual assault allegations against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

When Twitter suspended the accounts of Trump and former national security adviser Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, Nazaryan wrote: “Now do Jack Posobiec, Dan Scavino, Mollie Hemingway, Rogan O’Handley, Tucker Carlson ...”

The calls from left-wing reporters come after Big Tech began its crackdown on Trump and his supporters. Twitter permanently banned Trump from its platform on Friday, claiming that Trump’s tweets about his supporters continuing to be heard and not attending President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration – neither of which included calls to violence of any kind – somehow violated Twitter’s guidelines on inciting or glorifying violence. Here’s what Twitter wrote about its banning of Trump:

*On January 8, 2021, President Donald J. Trump tweeted:
“The 75,000,000 great American Patriots who voted for me, AMERICA FIRST, and MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN, will have a GIANT VOICE long into the future. They will not be disrespected or treated unfairly in any way, shape or form!!!”*

Shortly thereafter, the President tweeted:

“To all of those who have asked, I will not be going to the Inauguration on January 20th.”

Due to the ongoing tensions in the United States, and an uptick in the global conversation in regards to the people who violently stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, these two Tweets must be read in the context of broader events in the country and the ways in which the President’s statements can be mobilized by different audiences, including to incite violence, as well as in the context of the pattern of behavior from this account in recent weeks. After assessing the language in these Tweets against our [Glorification of Violence](#) policy, we have determined that these Tweets are in violation of the [Glorification of Violence Policy](#) and the user @realDonaldTrump should be immediately permanently suspended from the service.

Facebook also banned Trump from posting during the remainder of his term in office, and Snapchat banned him as well. YouTube suspended Trump’s account, and Google took the next step of removing alternate social media website Parler from its store,

with Apple threatening to do the same. On Saturday night, Amazon removed Parler from its web-hosting service.

Ashe Schow