

Project 2025

A Mandate for the Dismantling of America's Democracy

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Suzanne C. Danis, PhD

Project 2025

- What is Project 2025, and what do they want?
- Who is behind Project 2025, and who benefits?
- Close look at Five Federal Agencies: what are their proposed changes, and what is the likely impact?
- What can we do about it?

What Is Project 2025?

- Phase I of Presidential transition project with four pillars:
 - I. **Policy guide for next administration to overhaul the federal government**
 - II. Personnel database who could serve in the next administration
 - III. Training for those candidates—Presidential Administration Academy
 - IV. Playbook of actions for first 180 days in office
- Led by The Heritage Foundation
- Advisory Board of 100+ conservative groups
- Chapter authors from Trump Administration and conservative groups

What Are Their Grievances?

Conservatives—*betrayed by the Washington establishment, uncertain whom to trust*

- Internally splintered and strategically adrift; acute vulnerability and division
- Besieged by existential adversaries, foreign and domestic
- Enduring an era of division and danger

Political Class—*ruling and cultural elite today*

- Discredited by wholesale dishonesty and corruption
- Contemporary elites repurposed 1970s “radical chic”
- Built totalitarian cult known as “The Great Awakening”

Society—*the very moral foundations of our society are in peril*

- Inflation is ravaging family budgets; drug overdose deaths continue to escalate
- Children suffer the toxic normalization of transgenderism with drag queens
- Pornography invades their school libraries
- Low-income communities are drowning in addiction, government dependence

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...And that's just the first half-page!

What Do They Want?

What They Want

- Complete and total focus on family, marriage, church, community
- Get government out of people's lives
- Business is for profit and shareholder wealth
- People have control of their religious and conscience rights

And How They Will Do It

- Shrink Federal Government and bureaucracy and implement powerful command and control
- Implement and enforce social re-engineering (DEI/ESG)
- Investigate, audit, report past and present violations
- Seek legal redress through judicial system to punish violators

Who Is Behind It, and Who Benefits?

Leonard Leo (*Money, Influence*)

The Federalist Society
(*Courts*)

Promote Conservative Laws:

- Load SCOTUS
- Load Lower Courts

Wins:

- SCOTUS Conservative Supermajority
- Presidential Immunity
- Killed Constitutional Protections (Roe)
- Stripped Fed Admin authority (Chevron)
- ...and much more

The Heritage Foundation
(*Politics, Culture*)

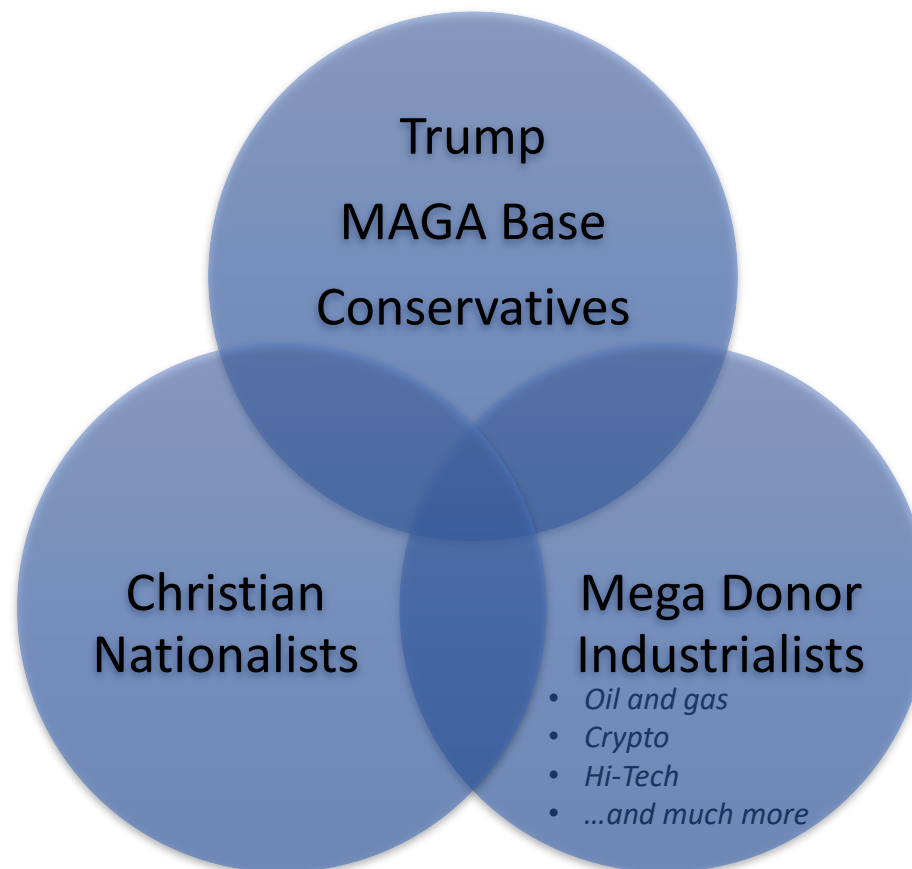
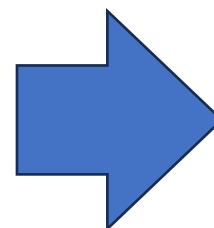
Promote Conservative Influence through interlocking groups to return US to its roots:

- Raise money
- Fund politicians, think tanks
- Push anti-wokeism
- Push conservative agenda
- Push Christian government

Wins:

- Project 2025
- ...and much more

The Winners—if Trump Elected President



...The losers—American Democracy

What Is Christian Nationalism (CN)?

What is it?

- Merges Christian and American identities, believes America is defined by Christianity
- Demands our laws should be based on Christian values

When is it a Christian Nationalist policy?

- A divine mission from God, freedom is defined by God, not man;
- Belief in natural law: universal rules from God that can't be superseded by government or judges
- Christians are so severely persecuted that it necessitates a federal response
- Anti-Christian bias by "Marxists and fascists"; investigate all forms of illegal discrimination

Why is it un-American?

- Distorts the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy
- Often overlaps with, provides cover for, white supremacy and racial and gender subjugation

How much Christian Nationalism is in the US?

- 30% of Americans qualify as CN adherents or sympathizers
- 64% of white evangelical Protestants are CN
 - Yet 35% of Americans have never heard this term
- Red state residents significantly more likely to hold these beliefs
- Strongly liked to:
 - Republican party affiliation, and holding favorable views of Trump
 - Evangelical/born-again identity and frequent church attendance
- More likely to see political struggles through apocalyptic lens of revolution and to support political violence

--PRRI, in partnership with Brookings Institution in 2024

Christian Nationalist values un-Constitutional, un-Democratic, un-American

Quick Look: Proposed Policies to Five Agencies

- Department of Education
- Intelligence Community
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Homeland Security
- Federal Trade Commission

Department of Education (ED)

Grievances

- Program bloat, failure to promote student achievement, executive overreach
- Institutions hostile to free expression, open academic inquiry, and American exceptionalism
- Woke “diversicrats”

What They Want

- Eliminate entire Department
- States to manage all policy and funding choices; with ‘no strings’ federal block-grants
- Shift student loans and grants to the private sector
- Rebalance, focus on workforce skills of Americans with no interest in four-year degree
- Offer diversity of education for traditional, faith-based institutions, technical and apprenticeships, career schools, military academies, life-long learning programs

Department of Education (ED) *(cont'd)*

Planned Policy Changes

- Department—eliminate; all programs move to other agencies including HHS, DoD, DOJ, State, Labor, Commerce, Agriculture, Bureau of Indian Education; terminate 4,400 workers
- Federal restrictions—lessen restrictions on charter schools, and school vouchers to all
- States—full education decision-making control, funding through ‘no-strings’ federal block grants
- DEI—eliminate all protections
- Unions—remove NEA’s federal charter
- Parents—give more rights

Potential Impacts

- Huge state burden to build/maintain own departments of education, and coordinate across states
- Impact across states on education quality, pricing, availability, demand, breadth unknown
- Widening gap between well-funded colleges (wealthy) and struggling colleges (lower income)

Intelligence Community (IC)

Grievances—*cabal of bureaucrats in DC*

- DOS, DOD, and IC use **risk aversion** or **political bureaucracy** to slow President's foreign policy goals
- Officials insert **political views** to influence or control the analytic process
- Social engineering
- Triggers: Hunter's laptop, Russia collusion, Carter Page, 2020 election threat analysis, Covid 19 origins

What They Want

- Reign in bureaucracy: control all IC through ODNI, straight to President
- Whole-of-Government focus on dominant strategic threats: China and cyberspace mission
- Lose risk aversion, hesitancy, overly cautious groupthink, look forward not backward
- Install and empower the right personnel to manage, build, and effectively execute actions
- Punish any officials who “abuse the public trust”

Intelligence Community (IC) cont'd

Planned Policy Changes

- Move some CIA Directorates out of DC; **end program's not consistent with President's mission**
- Shift to private sector open source intel collection; IC focus on difficult/complex products
- Make DNI only IC Cabinet level position; confirm lead and authority over all 18 IC agencies
- Report to President **only** on his agenda; narrow PDB distribution; focus only on Presidential priorities
- Ensure loyalty, and eliminate woke culture and "social justice" advocacy; become risk acceptant
- Halt all new hiring to prevent "burrowing" in of outgoing political personnel; punish leadership at intransigent agencies
- President **not constrained** to use only the CIA for covert action

Potential Impacts

- Brutal impact on morale, cohesiveness, integration of IC products, loss of employees who can't move
- Erosion of intel collection capability, quality, and specialized reciprocal sharing
- Security risks with emphasis on private sector

Security risks—Five Eyes may drastically reduce foreign intel sharing with US

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Grievances—*our long-term survival is at stake, our life expectancy has dropped*

- Social engineering leaves us sicker, poorer and more divided
- Ban harmful identity politics
- Religious freedom, abortion and euthanasia are not health care, sacred rights of conscience, uphold bodily integrity
- Administrative state is harmful

What They Want

- End runaway entitlement
- Protect life, conscience and bodily integrity
- Empower patient choices and provider autonomy
- Promote stable and flourishing married families

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) *(cont'd)*

Proposed Policy Changes

- Restrict Medicare choice of coverage and care
- Make Medicare Advantage the default enrollment option
 - Multi-source generic drugs off rebates from federal government
- Repeal Inflation Reduction Act
- Enforce work requirements to all federally funded programs
- Ban IVF, all abortion drugs, enforce Comstock Act, require in-person care to doctor,
- Promote pro-life research, abolish junk science and DEI office (NIH)

Potential Impacts

- Devastating life, medical and financial costs to families—especially women
- Heavy economic burden to states—homelessness, no health care, unplanned children, ‘latchkey’ children

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Grievances

- Bloated, bureaucratic, and expensive
- Lost sight of its mission priorities
- Suffered from Left's wokeness and weaponization against Americans they see as political opponents

What They Want

- Eliminate DHS. For now: reduce overhead, move functions to other Agencies, eliminate programs, privatize functions; "dismantle" everything else
- Prioritize border security and immigration law enforcement, including detention and deportation
- Punish countries that don't accept deportees
- Use military to stop migrants entering the country
- Exact revenge/retaliation on Biden Administration policies and personnel

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (Cont'd)

Planned Policy Changes

- Eliminate DHS and unions. Now: move functions to other agencies, states, or privatize
- Huge funding increase: CBP (house, deport 'aliens'), USCG (ships, China threats, war)
- Eliminate/cap visa types: H-2A/B, ATD, trafficked humans, victims of mental-physical abuse
- Immediate raids on workforces and other "appropriate" investigations and operations
- Use military to build wall, stop mass migration events, and move migrants to legal ports of entry
- Take lead from DOS in Western Hemisphere on migration talks, punish non-acquiescent countries

Potential Impacts

- National trauma: military caused mass migrant deaths; workforce roundups; massive migrant detention camps; DACA deported; communities' fear and loss
- Burden on states to fund all flood, tornado, hurricane emergencies
- Burden on poor populations unable to pay for private flood insurance
- Cities identifying flood zones, putting moratorium on construction, capping and moving residents

Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

Grievances

- Burdensome regulatory compliance costs:
 - Favors big business
 - Undermines small businesses, can bar entrance for new competitors
- Large corporations use economic power to facilitate collusion between government and others who:
 - Require environmental, social and governance (ESG)
 - Engage in 'de-banking'

What They Want

- Use market mechanisms, not social responsibility—profit not ideology,
- Reduce regulatory compliance requirements

However, Conservative movement is divided between

- Keep anti-trust enforcement, and productivity and efficiency focus on economic-based consumer welfare approach
- Look at effects of business concentration on innovation, institutional resilience of our democracy and children's development

Federal Trade Commission (FTC) (cont'd)

Planned Policy Changes

- Congress: investigate ESG practices as cover for anticompetitive activity, unfair trade practices
- FTC: examine platforms' advertising and contract-making with children as a deceptive or unfair trade practice
- FTC: institute unfair trade practices proceedings against entities that enter into contracts with children without parental consent

Potential Impacts, Scenarios, Consequences of change

- **Redefine FTC's role in antitrust and enforcement**
- Shrink FTC, move to states
- Enforce removal of all social value decisions in business, emphasis on children
- Major changes in regulation of Big Tech companies, and removing barriers to small companies

MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS!

*we respect our neighbors and the personal choices they make,
because we know the golden rule*

-- Tim Walz, August 7, 2024

Our Democracy is at Risk, What Next?

Project 2025 values, policies are here to stay—even without Trump

- Arguably, the threat to democracy is greater from the Christian Nationalists
- ‘Movement’ is now powerful and forceful, with direct access to government leaders and Congress

What you can do:

- ***Understand it, and share knowledge in your communities***
- ***Vote, and***
- ***Keep fighting at local and state levels***