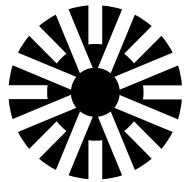




Read our research on: [Congress](#) | [Economy](#) | [Trust in Media](#)



Pew Research Center



RESEARCH TOPICS ▾

ALL PUBLICATIONS

METHODS

SHORT READS

TOOLS & RESOURCES

EXPERTS

ABOUT

[Home](#) > [Research Topics](#) > [Internet & Technology](#) > [Platforms & Services](#) > [Social Media](#) > [Twitter](#)

MAY 1, 2023



After Musk's takeover, big shifts in how Republican and Democratic Twitter users view the platform

BY [MONICA ANDERSON](#)

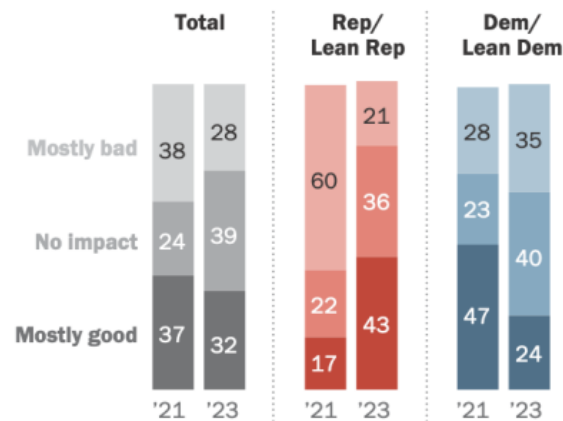
Two years ago, a majority of [Republican Twitter users](#) in the United States said the site had a bad impact on American democracy. But today, following Elon Musk's takeover of

Twitter, their views have become much more positive, while those of their Democratic counterparts have grown more negative.

How we did this [⊕](#)

Sharp decline since 2021 in the share of GOP Twitter users who say the platform is bad for American democracy

% of U.S. adult Twitter users who say Twitter is ____ for American democracy



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 13-19, 2023.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The share of Republican and Republican-leaning Twitter users who say the platform is mostly bad for American democracy has dropped from 60% in 2021 to 21% today, according to a Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted March 13-19, 2023. At the same time, the share of Republican Twitter users who say the site is mostly good for democracy has risen from 17% to 43%.

Democrats' views have moved in the opposite direction. The percentage of Democratic and Democratic-leaning Twitter users who say the platform is good for American democracy

has decreased from 47% to 24% in the past two years, while the share who say it is bad for democracy has increased – though more modestly – from 28% to 35%.

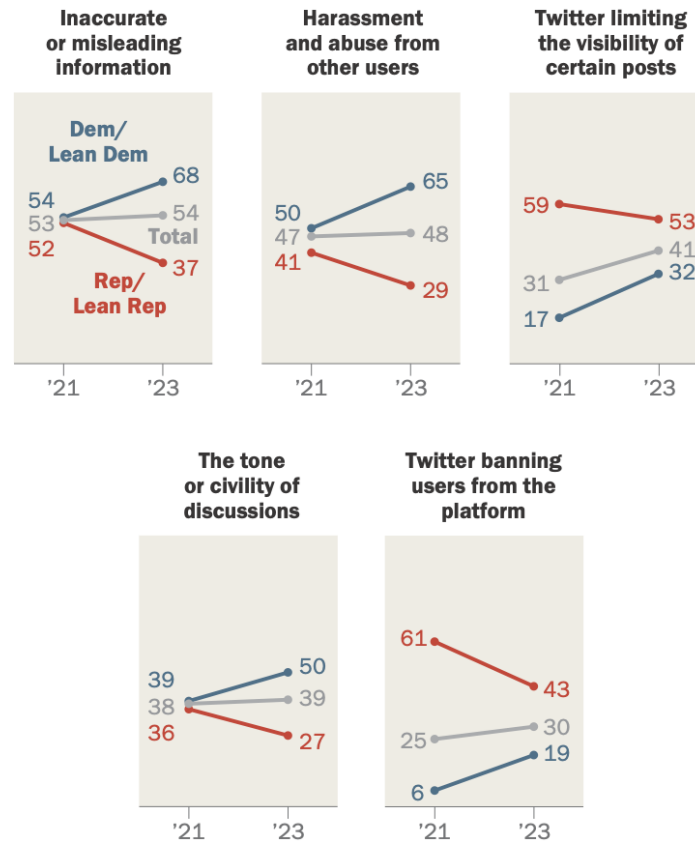
Still, growing shares in both parties say Twitter isn't impacting American democracy. In 2021, roughly a quarter each of Republican and Democratic Twitter users said the site had no impact on American democracy. Those shares increased to 36% among GOP users and 40% among Democratic users in the latest survey.

Twitter has undergone several prominent changes in the past year, ushered in by Musk's \$44 billion acquisition of the site last fall. Musk has been a [vocal advocate for preserving free speech](#) on the site, [reinstating banned users](#) such as [former President Donald Trump](#) and [taking on "cancel culture."](#) But [critics have raised concerns](#) that these changes could lead to misinformation and harassment going unchecked on the site.

In addition to asking Twitter users about the site's impact on democracy, the Center's new survey measures their views about potential issues that may occur on the platform. It finds that Democratic and Republican users are growing further apart in their worries about misinformation, harassment and civility.

Partisans are increasingly divided over whether misinformation, harassment and civility are major problems on Twitter

% of U.S. adult Twitter users who say ___ is a **major problem** on Twitter



Note: Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 13-19, 2023.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Democratic users are now far more likely than Republican users to say inaccurate or misleading information (68% vs. 37%), and the tone or civility of discussions (50% vs. 27%) are major problems on Twitter. Democratic Twitter users have become more likely to say each of these things since 2021, while Republican users have become less likely to do so.

There is also a widening partisan gap in assessing the severity of harassment on the platform. Roughly two-thirds of Democratic users (65%) say harassment and abuse from other users is a major problem on Twitter, compared with 29% of Republican users – a difference of 36 percentage points. This gap was just nine points in 2021.

Additionally, there has been a double-digit increase in the share of Democratic Twitter users who think limiting the visibility of certain posts and banning users are major problems on the site. Conversely, fewer Republican users cite bans as a substantial issue on Twitter, while the share who name limiting posts' visibility as a major problem is statistically unchanged since 2021.

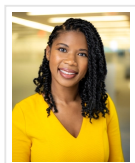
Still, these free speech-related concerns remain far more common among Republicans on the platform. Among Twitter users, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say it's a major problem that the site limits the visibility of certain posts (53% vs. 32%) and bans users (43% vs. 19%).

Note: Here are [the questions used](#) for this analysis, along with responses, and its [methodology](#).

Topics [Technology Policy Issues](#), [Politics Online](#), [Online Harassment & Bullying](#), [Misinformation Online](#), [Twitter](#)

SHARE THIS LINK:

<https://pewrsr.ch/3AGA3gT>



Monica Anderson is an associate director of research at Pew Research Center.

[POSTS](#) | [BIO](#) | [TWITTER](#) | [EMAIL](#)

Sign up for our weekly newsletter

Fresh data delivered Saturday mornings

[SIGN UP](#)

RELATED

SHORT READ | MAY 5, 2022

10 facts about Americans and Twitter

REPORT | NOV 15, 2021

The Behaviors and Attitudes of U.S. Adults on Twitter

SHORT READ | SEP 16, 2021

Simone Biles by far the most-mentioned Team USA athlete on Twitter during Tokyo Olympics

SHORT READ | APR 24, 2019

Key takeaways from our new study of how Americans use Twitter

REPORT | APR 24, 2019

Sizing Up Twitter Users

TOPICS

Politics Online

Twitter

Technology Policy Issues

Online Harassment & Bullying

Misinformation Online

MOST POPULAR

1 After Musk's takeover, big shifts in how Republican and Democratic Twitter users view the platform

2 Most U.S. bank failures have come in a few big waves

3 What the data says about gun deaths in the U.S.

4 Teens and social media: Key findings from Pew Research Center surveys

5 How Public Polling Has Changed in the 21st Century

Pew Research Center 

1615 L St. NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
USA

(+1) 202-419-4300 | Main

(+1) 202-857-8562 | Fax

(+1) 202-419-4372 | [Media Inquiries](#)

RESEARCH TOPICS

Politics & Policy

International Affairs

Immigration & Migration

Race & Ethnicity

Family & Relationships

Economy & Work

Science

Internet & Technology

FOLLOW US

 Email Newsletters


 Facebook

 Twitter

 Tumblr

Religion

News Habits & Media

 YouTube

Generations & Age

Methodological Research

 RSS

Gender & LGBTQ

[Full topic list](#)

ABOUT PEW RESEARCH CENTER Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, media content analysis and other empirical social science research. Pew Research Center does not take policy positions. It is a subsidiary of [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#).

Copyright 2023 Pew Research Center [About](#) [Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Reprints, Permissions & Use Policy](#) [Feedback](#) [Careers](#)