

LEGAL AND PRIVACY

## Social media networks act against Trump, limiting his reach

January 7, 2021



**Donald J. Trump** ✓

@realDonaldTrump

45th President of the United States of America 🇺🇸

Washington, DC [Vote.DonaldJTrump.com](https://Vote.DonaldJTrump.com) Joined March 2009

51 Following 88.7M Followers

*U.S. President Donald Trump is currently barred from tweeting.*

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

Social media platforms including Facebook and Twitter have taken action against President Donald Trump after he praised his supporters following an attack on the U.S. Capitol Building while lawmakers were attempting to certify the results of the 2020 presidential election.

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President Trump has frequently denounced and targeted social media companies, even threatening legal action or bans. Meanwhile, the platforms have been frequently criticized for giving the president free reign while spreading disinformation and calling for violence.

Locked out

By disabling and locking official accounts, it is apparent that a growing number of platforms no longer trust President Trump to be a responsible user of social media.

On Jan. 7, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg confirmed that Mr. Trump will not be able to post on his Facebook and Instagram accounts until president-elect Joseph R. Biden is inaugurated on Jan. 20.

"Over the last several years, we have allowed President Trump to use our platform consistent with our own rules, at times removing content or labeling his posts when they violate our policies," Mr. Zuckerberg said in a statement. "We did this because we believe that the public has a right to the broadest possible access to political speech, even controversial speech.

"But the current context is now fundamentally different, involving use of our platform to incite violent insurrection against a democratically elected government," he said. "We believe the risks of allowing the President to continue to use our service during this period are simply too great.

"Therefore, we are extending the block we have placed on his Facebook and Instagram accounts indefinitely and for at least the next two weeks until the peaceful transition of power is complete."

The shocking events of the last 24 hours clearly demonstrate that President Donald Trump

intends to use his remaining...

Posted by [Mark Zuckerberg](#) on [Thursday, January 7, 2021](#)

*Statement from Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg*

Meanwhile, Twitter instituted a temporary lock on President Trump's account and is expected to restore his access after deleting posts that falsely claimed the presidential election was fraudulent.

Facebook, Twitter and Google's YouTube also removed a video message from President Trump in which he urged his supporters to leave the Capitol while once lying that the election was stolen.

Livestreaming platform Twitch has also disabled Mr. Trump's ability to stream on his account.

Despite these actions, Mr. Trump's accounts on all social media networks, including Facebook and Twitch, remain live. Consumers can still view and engage with existing content.

Last summer, President Trump unleashed his ire against social media after Twitter added a fact-checking caveat to his tweet by issuing an executive order to prevent online censorship.

In July, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) filed a petition for rulemaking with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If the FCC follows through, social media networks such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and the like will be treated the same way that news publishers are, responsible for the content that appears on their platforms ([see story](#)).

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