



To: Interested Parties
From: Adam Kovacevich, Founder & CEO, Chamber of Progress
Re: **Five Takeaways: What Trump's Win Means For Tech & Innovation Policy**
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Based on his first term, we have a good sense for what Donald Trump's second term tech and innovation policy will be driven by: **Trump's personal grievance agenda.**

Trump is likely to approach major tech policy issues - online speech, competition policy, and China - through a lens of what best supports his own interests. Apart from the spotlight, Trump's agencies will likely reverse Biden-era aggressions against industry. And progressive anti-tech activist groups who had an open door with the Biden Administration will likely turn their focus to blue states. Here are five takeaways about what to expect:

1. Big Tech Antitrust Debates Shift to the "Trump Welfare Standard"

As in AT&T/Time Warner, antitrust will be driven by "is this company nice to Trump?"

During the Biden Administration, neo-Brandeisian antitrust enforcers promoted an abandonment of the time-tested "consumer welfare standard." Under Trump, that debate will be set aside for a "**Trump Welfare Standard**": is this company nice to Trump?

Trump has repeatedly demonstrated that he's willing to wield government power against corporations and executives he sees as enemies, by [challenging](#) the AT&T/Time Warner because of hatred of CNN; by [telling](#) an interviewer that he was watching how "nice" the Google's Trump search results were; and in running mate J.D. Vance's support of Big Tech antitrust cases as a [form of leverage](#) over censorship concerns.

Trump is unlikely to abandon the DOJ and FTC antitrust cases against Big Tech - several of which began under his first term - but he will likely try to use these suits as leverage over the companies to get favorable treatment on speech and content concerns. And his antitrust agencies may shift litigation and remedy strategies in those cases.

2. The Right's Assault on Content Moderation Could Spark a Section 230 Renaissance on the Left

Will Democrats give MAGA a new censorship tool in KOSA?

Republicans [accuse](#) Democrats of "jawboning" online platforms to remove inappropriate content. But Republicans - including Trump - have engaged in the exact same thing - [asking](#) Elon Musk to remove unfavorable content from X and [intervening](#) to reinstate right-wing accounts. Trump will surely "work the refs" of social media in the same way, demanding that they leave up incendiary content on their platform.

This could create a moment for Democrats to rediscover the virtues of **Section 230** (which incentivizes content moderation by providing liability protection for moderation), as well as platforms' First Amendment rights to moderate (affirmed in the [Netchoice](#) Supreme Court cases).

On **kids** issues, Republican KOSA sponsor Marsha Blackburn framed the bill's "duty of care" rules as a way to curb transgender content online. Democrats will have to decide whether they want to hand Trump & MAGA state law enforcers a powerful new censorship tool.

3. Far-Left Tech Critics Fan Out To Deep Blue States

AI safety voices will replicate CA & CO bills in other Dem states

A slew of foundation-funded far-left anti-tech groups working on AI, competition, consumer protection, and speech issues have had broad influence within the Biden Administration. With Republicans winning the White House and Senate, these groups are likely to shift their strategic energy to passing anti-tech legislation in **solid blue states** like California, New York, Minnesota, Maryland, Washington, and Colorado.

This will be especially true of **AI policy**. While Trump has vowed to rescind Biden's executive order on AI, California passed [17 AI bills](#) this year. Left-leaning "AI safety" groups have already declared their [intent](#) to push those bills in other blue states next year.

4. Antagonizing China & Europe Puts Innovation on the Backburner

Trump likely to push back against Chinese competition & European regulation

Trump's first term wasn't known for promoting technological innovation. But Trump was passionate about antagonizing China, and enjoyed [taunting](#) European policymakers for overregulating and taxing US tech firms. While it's unlikely that Trump will adopt a broad innovation agenda, watch for him to defend US firms against **Chinese competition** and **European regulation**.

Trump [flip-flopped](#) this year on **TikTok's** foreign ownership, but the law requiring divestiture goes into effect in January without any action by Trump. Trump could direct his DOJ to stop defending the law in court against TikTok's legal challenge, but Congress could step in to defend it.

5. Republican Reversals of Agency Aggression

Return to hands-off posture of Trump's first term

Trump's Administration is likely to reverse Biden agency actions on a number of fronts, including:

- Anti-crypto lawsuits at the **SEC**;
- New anti-fintech rules at the **CFPB** (an agency that Trump virtually shut down during his first term);
- Independent contractor classification rules at the **Labor Dept**;
- Merger guidelines and new rules on junk fees at the **FTC** and **DOJ**.

Reduced SEC hostility towards crypto will be welcome, but permanent changes to digital asset oversight will still require bipartisan support in Congress. The election will likely produce the [most pro-crypto Congress ever](#) next year - a good environment to pass bipartisan crypto rules.