

A Liberal Democratic Response to a Second Trump Administration: Q&A Sheet

What Was Trump Convicted For?

In May 2024, Trump was convicted in New York State of thirty-four counts of falsifying business records of the first degree. It was in relation to a \$130,000 hush money payment to Stormy Daniels – who was alleged to have had a one-night stand with Trump – by Michael Cohen during the 2016 US presidential election campaign.

Sentencing had originally been delayed until after the 2024 US presidential election.

What Are Assumptions of Trump's Priorities Based On?

The priorities of a second Trump administration as outlined in the policy motion are based chiefly on proposals outlined in the 2025 Presidential Transition Project. Better known as Project 2025, it is a plan written by the conservative thinktank The Heritage Foundation to reshape the US federal government as a vehicle to enable conservative ideology.

They are also based on Trump's remarks on the campaign trail. However, contributing authors to Project 2025 are divided on issues such as trade.

Why Is the Redesignation of Civil Service Positions Important?

Most members of the US federal government are career civil servants who owe their positions to merit, expertise and experience rather than political favour, including lawyers, doctors, and scientists. Subject to independent employment protections, their role is to advise politically appointed department and agency heads in formulating policy.

Project 2025 proposes redesignating these positions as political appointments to allow conservative policy to be enacted more easily. As such appointees would owe their positions to loyalty to Trump rather than expertise in a given field and would thus be likely to merely endorse any of his positions, regardless of efficacy or legality.

What Is a De Facto National Abortion Ban?

In 2022, *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, two key Supreme Court rulings underpinning reproductive health protections in the US, were overruled. As a result, access to abortion now varies wildly from state to state, with abortion being illegal in thirteen states.

A de facto nation abortion ban means that instead of Congress passing a law that would explicitly ban abortion nationwide, federal agencies – likely staffed by Trump loyalists – would implement procedural changes that would effectively restrict the ability to carry out abortions. These would include having the Food

and Drug Administration declare abortifacients unsafe, and barring the US Postal Service from transporting medical equipment used for abortions.

What Would Mass Deportation Efforts Entail?

Based on comments made by Trump and several key figures affiliated with his 2024 campaign and Project 2025, the fulfilment of mass deportation could entail:

- Deputising the National Guard, local police and sheriffs, and agents of federal agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration as immigration enforcement officers.
- Carrying out large-scale raids to locate illegal immigrations.
- Establishing internment camps near the US-Mexico border.
- Detaining homeless people in blue states in camps.
- Using the US Census as a surveillance tool by reintroducing a question concerning citizenship.
- Denying disaster relief to states or localities which refuse to comply with immigration laws.

Why Is Transgender Discrimination Specified?

LGBT protections against discrimination were rolled back during Trump's first term, with Project 2025 proposing the removal of such protections yet again, and funding for initiatives such as HIV prevention and treatment were cut. The trans community has been especially targeted, with attempts made to exclude trans members of the armed forces during Trump's first term and Project 2025 proposing to end access to gender-affirming care.

However, there are some instances where the Republicans have taken a softer stance on LGB rights, albeit out of pragmatism. The overturning of same-sex marriage, a longstanding Republican social policy, was omitted from their party platform this year, likely due to the passage of the Respect for Marriage Act in 2022.

How Would Trump End the War in Ukraine?

Trump's objective of concluding the war in Ukraine is informed by an 'America First' perspective on foreign policy, namely that financial and material support to Ukraine is a drain on US resources. Trump is also known to have praised Vladimir Putin, with Donald Trump Jr saying that Volodymyr Zelensky's 'allowance is about to run out'.

Continued financial support may be conditioned on Ukraine entering peace talks with Russia, with possible concessions to Russia including the cession of Russian-occupied Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson as well as a moratorium on Ukraine's admission to NATO.