



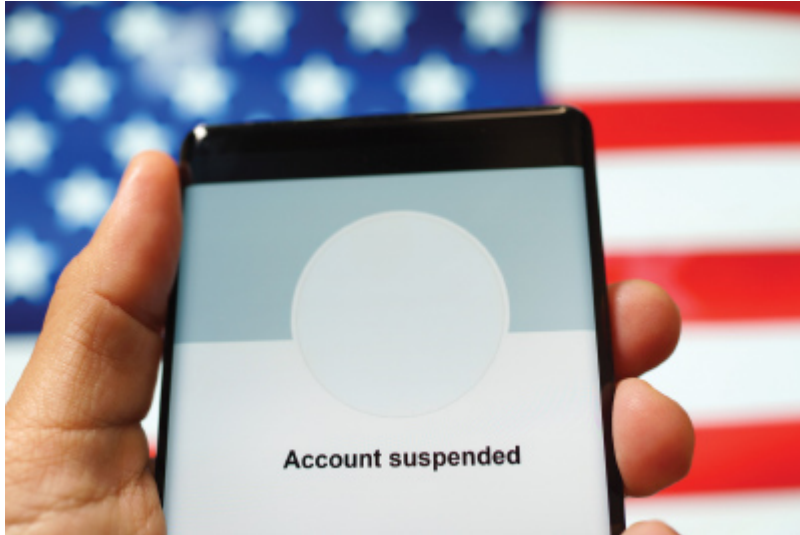
Written by [Staff](#) on August 8, 2023

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## Inside Track

### Seventy Percent of Dems Want Censorship



(tylim/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

A majority of Americans recently surveyed by Pew Research favor restricting “false information” and “violent content” online, an alarming development with respect to one of the nation’s primordial principles — the right to speak one’s mind freely.

But worse still, by a large margin, Democrats, not Republicans, favor restrictions on free speech.

Survey respondents also would rather see Big Tech, not the government, control speech. If Big Tech is in charge, those who will define “false information” and “violent content” will be the leftists who largely control the major tech and social-media companies and already have a record of censoring speech they don’t like.

The survey question returned two major findings: Fifty-five percent of those polled believe the government should censor speech, while 65 percent would let Big Tech handle the job. Those numbers have jumped from 39 percent and 56 percent in 2018.

The breakdown by political party is particularly telling. Seventy percent of Democrats or those who lean Democratic want the federal government to shut down speech. Just 39 percent of Republicans do.

That stark difference shows up across all the survey questions:

There was virtually no difference between the parties in 2018, but the share of Democrats who support government intervention has grown from 40% in 2018 to 70% in 2023, while the share of Republicans who hold this view hasn’t changed much.

There is a similar gap between the shares of Democrats and Republicans who say technology companies should restrict false information online.

A large majority of Democrats and Democratic leaners (81%) support technology companies taking such steps, while about half of Republicans (48%) say the same. The share of Democrats who support technology companies taking these steps has also increased steadily since 2018.



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— R. Cort Kirkwood

## “Zero Tolerance” Rule Putting Gun Dealers Out of Business



(Kameleon007/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

Gun Owners of America (GOA), in a lawsuit filed July 11 against the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), revealed what Biden’s “zero tolerance” policy is all about: putting gun dealers out of business.

Following Biden’s announcement in June 2021 that he wanted to “keep guns out of the wrong hands,” many assumed he was talking about criminals. It turns out what he really meant was any law-abiding citizen who owned, or wanted to own, a firearm. He would, with the help of the ATF, put every gun *dealer* out of business.

He talked about a “whole-of-government approach” to the problem of gun violence, a “comprehensive strategy” to combat it, a policy that “attacks the root causes” of that violence.

Enter the Biden administration’s “zero tolerance” policy, whereby the most picayune or minor errors made by a gun dealer trying to follow the myriad local, state, and federal laws makes him subject to termination of his federal firearms license (FFL).

As Biden announced, it’s a “new policy to underscore zero tolerance for willful violations of the law... ATF will seek to revoke the licenses of dealers the first time that they violate federal law.” The word “willful” is not defined by Biden, and so the ATF has chosen to define it as “any” violation — and is acting accordingly.

As the lawsuit by GOA noted, “The 2022 [Administrative Action Policy manual, or AAP] represents a clear redirection of ATF’s mission — from *regulating* the firearms industry to seeking to *eliminate* it.” (Emphasis in original.)

The lawsuit notes that the ATF is pushing the policy because it works: “As ATF itself reports, the Biden Administration’s ‘zero tolerance’ policy, as implemented in ATF’s revised 2022 AAP, has achieved the desired results — a massive increase in the number of FFLs who are having their licenses revoked or otherwise are terminating their licenses.”

— Bob Adelman



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## UN to Host ‘Summit of the Future’



(grandriver/iStock/Getty Images Plus)

In its latest scheme to destroy national sovereignty, the United Nations is planning a “Summit of the Future” to take place in New York City on September 22-23, 2024, to cement its agenda of globalism for centuries.

“The Summit of the Future is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance,” the UN website reveals, as well as to “reaffirm existing commitments including to the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Charter, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral [globalist] system that is better positioned to positively impact people’s lives.”

UN Secretary-General António Guterres laid out 11 “Areas of Potential Action” for the summit, including calling for the creation of a “Futures Lab.” This lab would “work with partners including governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector, to issue regular reports on megatrends and catastrophic risks” and would help prepare the global community for the next “pandemic” and to ensure countries are “sharing vaccines equitably.”

Perhaps the most frightening agenda item for the “Summit of the Future” is a transformation of education. Action item 11 states, “Transform education: achieve a fundamental shift in how education is seen and treated including in relation to the purpose of education; the learning environment; the teaching profession; harnessing digital transformation; investing in education; and multilateral support for quality education for all.”

Guterres proposes a “UN upgrade” to make “UN 2.0,” which includes a “more participatory and consultative approach, gender parity by 2028, the re-establishment of the Secretary-General’s Scientific Advisory Board, and a policy that puts people at the center of the UN System, taking into account age, gender and diversity,” according to the socialist secretary’s report. Guterres also wants to seek “improved participation of youth” in the UN.

The very notion of this summit and U.S. involvement in the UN is contrary to American interests because American citizens alone, at the local level, should decide independently their policy on health emergency response, education, and all other realms of civic action.



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— *Andrew Muller*

## Fed Officially Launches New Instant-pay Service



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The Federal Reserve on July 20 launched its own instant-payment service, FedNow, touted as a way of allowing Americans to do things such as receive their paychecks and cash checks much more quickly — in a matter of minutes, as opposed to waiting one or two business days.

“It is a brand new, shall we call it a superinformation high-speed highway for payments, that the Fed has launched in an effort to modernize its payment systems opportunities for all of us,” Scott Latham, president and CEO of the Alabama Bankers Association, told WSFA 12 News on July 21.

FedNow was first announced back in 2019, and many banks and credit unions have already signed up to use it. Per the Fed, FedNow provides banks with a foundation to develop and enhance services such as bill pay, immediate payroll, e-invoice, claims payments, and funding a brokerage account.

Mainstream media outlets say FedNow will be useful to Americans in situations such as paying last-minute bills late at night without having to wait for the payment to clear the next business day. The Federal Reserve, moreover, ensures privacy, stating that it will not be able to access people’s bank accounts, nor does it have the authority for additional surveillance.

Not everyone is buying the Fed’s assurances. John Berlau of the Competitive Enterprise Institute wrote April 7 that while FedNow is not a central bank digital currency as some have said, it does come with some dangers — such as the potential for allowing the Fed to see the details of consumer transactions.

Quoting Drew Johnson of Protect Internet Freedom and senior fellow at the Taxpayers Protection Alliance, Berlau explains that FedNow could give the government insight into details as intimate as how much people are spending on goods, where and what they are purchasing, and where they are traveling on a rideshare app.

Central bank digital currencies and other forms of financial surveillance and control — such as FedNow — pose one of the greatest threats to freedom in America.

— *Luis Miguel*



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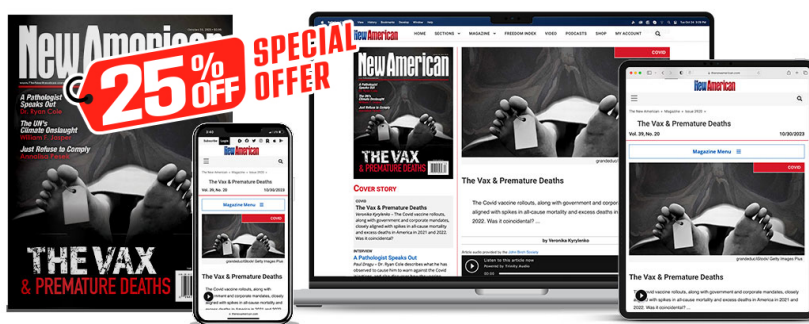
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