

# POINT/COUNTERPOINT: Should I stay or should I go now? Will you pay to stay part of the Twitterverse? And does anyone even really give a Tweet?

On Oct. 27, Elon Musk took over the reins of control at Twitter, causing pandemonium in both the metaverse and in the workplace. Many of those who have enjoyed an audience on Twitter for the last 16 years are now contemplating whether they should keep an active handle on Twitter, or just leave the nest.

Where are you at in this discussion? Are you thinking about whether you should stay, or just go now? Does Elon Musk truly have that much power and influence? Do you support his takeover, his practices, or have you already posted your last Tweet?

Here's what others are saying:

**Donald Trump**, former U.S. president, newly reinstated on Twitter by Musk: "I am very happy that Twitter is now in sane hands ... Twitter must now work hard to rid itself of all of the bots and fake accounts that have hurt it so badly. It will be much smaller, but better."

**Changpeng Zhao**, founder, CEO, Binance, co-investor in Musk's Twitter deal: "We're excited to be able to help Elon realize a new vision for Twitter. We aim to play a role in bringing social media and Web3 together in order to broaden the use and adoption of crypto and blockchain technology."

Billionaire entrepreneur **Mark Cuban** tweeted that he was looking forward to the Elon Musk era: "He is a ready, fire, aim entrepreneur who will truly enjoy f\*\*\*ing [expletive] with everyone who has an expectation of him. The only

expectation you can have of @elonmusk is that he will flex his independence to show everyone who's in charge."

**Pariss Chandler**, founder of Black Tech Pipeline, a jobs board and recruitment website: "Before Elon took over, I felt like the team was working to make Twitter a safer platform, and now they are kind of not there. I don't know what's going on internally. I have lost hope in that. I'm both sad and terrified for Twitter, both for the employees and also the users."

**CBS News**: "In light of the uncertainty around Twitter and out of an abundance of caution, CBS News is pausing its activity on the social media site as it continues to monitor the platform."

New York Times columnist **Charles Blow**, to his 645,000 Twitter followers: "I've been pulling back a bit from social media anyway. This will be just the push I need to go all the way on this app."

**Tanya Golash-Boza**, professor of sociology at the University of California, Merced, with 15,800 followers on Twitter: "Anything Twitter does which makes it a space where people are more likely to experience hate speech or threats of violence will erode its status as an essential gathering place for higher ed. I have long considered leaving Twitter—mostly because I go back and forth with regard to whether or not spending time on Twitter is fruitful or enjoyable."

**Ruth Ben-Ghiat**, professor of Italian and history at New York University, with

183,300 followers on Twitter: "Twitter has made me a more synthetic and effective communicator, has put me in touch with senators, CEOs, students, farmers and people all over the world who care about democracy, and has become a kind of adjunct to my classroom teaching. I would never give all that up just because some far-right operative who backs [Russian president Vladimir] Putin and [Chinese president Xi [Jinping] decides to buy Twitter."

Filmmaker **Rob Reiner** urged people to not leave the platform: "For those who are fighting to preserve our Constitutional Democracy, now is not the time to leave Twitter," he tweeted the day after the acquisition.

Actor **Josh Gad** said he was unsure if he would stay on Twitter: "Large exodus happening on this platform. Not sure if I stay or not. Leaning toward staying, but if today is a sign of things to come, not sure what the point is. Freedom of speech is great. Hate speech intended to incite harm, (with no consequences) ain't what I signed up for."

**Téa Leoni**, an actor best known for her lead role in the CBS political drama "Madam Secretary," tweeted to her roughly 124,000 followers: "Hi everyone. I'm coming off Twitter today—let's see where we are when the dust settles. Today the dust has revealed too much hate, too much in the wrong direction. Love, kindness, and possibilities for all of you."

Many have already fled as the plat-

form's U.S. political center of gravity has recently shifted right, an investigative report by The Economist has also revealed.

In the four days following the acquisition, the report shared, Republican members of Congress gained 470,000 followers (an average of 1,800 each), while Democratic members lost 420,000 (an average of 1,600 each).

Vice President Kamala Harris, Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Bernie Sanders, along with other high-profile Democrats, experienced some of the biggest hits; all lost more than 35,000 followers.

The Economist report's author suggested that these changes are "likely to be a result of right-leaning users joining the platform and left-leaning users leaving."

Other reports have also indicated that Musk's plans to charge users \$8 per month for account verification—a previously free feature noted by a blue icon with a check mark, usually given to celebrities, journalists and influencers—is further causing once-loyal Tweepers to leave the nest. Such a plan will undoubtedly cause further disruption in the Twitterverse.

Soon still more of us may wind up subconsciously pondering the renowned lyrics from The Clash with an irony behind the band's name not overlooked in light of these times:

"Should I stay or should I go now? If I go, there will be trouble, and if I stay it will be double..."

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