

## Three Years After January 6, 2021 Larger Threats Loom

*Project 2025: a Plan to Overthrow Democracy*

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Democracy is government by the common people, serving all citizens through officials elected to represent the interests of every constituent in the population. It is characterized by differing parties and groups working together toward compromise that works for the majority of the population.

Authoritarianism is control of government by an elite few or by a “strongman” dictator, typically maintained by force and is characterized by the repression of individual freedom of thought and action. It is a rejection of democracy, with reductions in the rule of law, separation of powers, democratic checks and balances, democratic voting, and persecution of all other political parties and ideologies.

The January 6, 2021 insurrection at the Capitol was incited as part of an authoritarian scheme to reject the peaceful transfer of power that democracy is built upon. Former President Trump’s condemnation of America, democracy, and the rule of law is evident in his vocal preference for autocracy. His aversion extends to most Americans and even fellow Republicans unless they demonstrate unwavering loyalty to him. Regrettably, today’s Republican Party not only supports the former president but actively amplifies his authoritarian aspirations.

Republicans have endorsed several authoritarian regimes, even hosting Viktor Orbàn, Hungary’s autocratic leader at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in 2022 and holding CPAC 2023 in Hungary. Orbàn’s rule of Hungary employs a white christian nationalist agenda. Commonly misunderstood as patriotic Christianity, white Christian nationalism is bigoted, domineering, and exclusionary, projecting stories of a nation imperiled by deviants that needs to be recaptured by those claiming rightful ownership and forcing their religious views upon the nation as a means of control.

Despite the fact that America was colonized and founded on freedom of religion and the separation of church and state, Republicans are following Orbàn’s playbook for overthrowing democracy.

Instead of formulating policies to genuinely benefit Americans or addressing pressing issues like the economy and immigration, Republicans are eroding centuries of democratic norms and rejecting equal human rights. Their focus has shifted towards obstructing Congress,

threatening government shutdowns, imposing intrusive governance over reproductive healthcare rights, black American history, LGBTQ+ existence, banning books, and advocating for the isolation of America.

### **Project 2025: a Plan to Overthrow Democracy**

Project 2025 ([project2025.org](http://project2025.org)) is a plan already being enacted to allow the next Republican President to dismantle the executive branch of the U.S. federal government. This partisan takeover of our federal government calls for firing millions of civil service workers to replace them with loyal Republicans and candidates are already being screened. They plan to slash Department of Justice funding, dismantle the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Departments of Homeland Security, Education, and Commerce. Reports state that it includes immediately invoking the Insurrection Act of 1807 to deploy the military for domestic law enforcement and directing loyalists in the new, partisan DOJ to persecute non-loyalists. It is a clear and unambiguous plan to create a dictator state.

Authoritarians in what used to be the Republican Party seek to dominate a future where only favorable votes count, government and religion are mandated by an elite few, our criminal justice system is weaponized for political gain and personal retribution, and only approved loyalists' rights are protected. In contrast, Democrats are fighting to uphold and strengthen our democracy, the rights of every American, and our leadership and alliances around the globe. They are constantly reaching across the aisle and offering compromise to benefit all the American people.

Democracy is not a static institution but a living, breathing system requiring active participation to thrive. **Every vote in 2024 will transcend partisan lines, becoming a powerful tool for ordinary citizens to shape the trajectory of democracy.**

**Patriotism is loyalty to the country, not to any political party, religion, or individual.**

America is a democracy. A vote for any candidate voicing support for authoritarian control of government, rights, and freedoms is inherently unpatriotic and un-American.

The future of American democracy is in your hands.