

Twitter Shareholder Meeting - Proposal #6 Statement
Justin Danhof, Esq., General Counsel and Free Enterprise Project Director
National Center for Public Policy Research, May 20, 2019

I'm Justin Danhof of the National Center for Public Policy Research and I move proposal six, which seeks to increase ideological diversity on the company's board of directors.

Last August, the company's liberal CEO Jack Dorsey admitted to CNN's far-left Brian Stelter that the bulk of Twitter's employees share a left-wing worldview.¹ In fact, Twitter's workforce is so left-leaning that it has created a hostile work environment for the handful of conservatives who dare to work at the company.

Dorsey explained to Recode that, "[w]e have a lot of conservative-leaning folks in the company as well, and to be honest, they don't feel safe to express their opinions at the company. They do feel silenced by just the general swirl of what they perceive to be the broader percentage of leanings within the company, and I don't think that's fair or right."ⁱⁱ Despite this, Dorsey insists that the Twitter platform is neutral. He told Congress, "Twitter does not use political ideology to make any decisions, whether related to ranking content on our service or how we enforce our rules. We believe strongly in being impartial, and we strive to enforce our rules impartially."ⁱⁱⁱ

As a leader in the conservative policy movement, I am here to tell you, we aren't buying it. And I don't need to rely on anecdotes to prove my point. Social science is on the scene, and the numbers indicate a striking display of anti-conservative bias on your platform.

Richard Hanania, Ph.D., of Columbia University conducted a study and found that "[o]f 22 prominent, politically active individuals who are known to have been suspended since 2005 and who expressed a preference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, 21 supported Donald Trump."^{iv}

The only liberal that was suspended was Rose McGowan, who was temporarily suspended for posting someone's private phone number – a black-letter violation of Twitter policies.

Whether you're willing to admit your bias is beyond the point. In business, perception is often reality. And our proposal provides a tangible way for the company to combat its bias. When the company takes overtly political positions on legal and policy issues, it would benefit from having voices from both sides of the aisle in the room. The company would be much less likely to engage in bias against conservatives if it had a few right-leaning folks in positions of power. If their voices were heard, it would go a long way towards fixing both the actual bias and the perception of bias.

All of this points to the necessity of implementing our proposal. We believe that boards that incorporate diverse perspectives can think more critically and oversee corporate managers more effectively. Appointing a few conservatives may help the company avoid groupthink and address its biases. That's a win for investors and a win for true diversity.

Please join me in voting yes on proposal six. Thank you.

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ⁱ <https://thehill.com/policy/technology/402495-twitter-ceo-jack-dorsey-i-fully-admit-our-bias-is-more-left-leaning>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.vox.com/2018/9/14/17857622/twitter-liberal-employees-conservative-trump-politics>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://d3i6fh83elv35t.cloudfront.net/static/2018/09/Dorsey.pdf>

^{iv} <https://quillette.com/2019/02/12/it-isnt-your-imagination-twitter-treats-conservatives-more-harshly-than-liberals/>