

Funding the Future

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I became aware of Project 2025 some time ago. It is the plan for the second Trump presidency that has been created for him by a range of far-right US think tanks headed by the Heritage Foundation, but supposedly involving hundreds of such organisations.

The [original document is here](#). It is more than 900 pages long. Few are going to read all that. I thought a summary might be useful, and for once, I thought that ChatGPT might be of use in creating one. This is what I asked it to do:

Please summarise the main policy proposals in 'Project 2025', noting who is making these proposals.

This is what it offered:

"**Project 2025**" is a comprehensive policy blueprint put forward by **The Heritage Foundation**, a conservative think tank, along with contributions from several other right-leaning organizations. Its aim is to provide a roadmap for a conservative-led federal government, specifically targeting a possible administration in 2025. This initiative, with the tagline "**A Guide to Winning Back America**," is designed to consolidate and streamline conservative policy objectives across a wide array of domains, focusing on what it sees as a return to constitutional governance, with an emphasis on reducing the power of federal agencies, enforcing stricter immigration policies, and altering education and climate policies.

Here are the main policy proposals outlined in "Project 2025":

1. Reducing the Federal Bureaucracy and Restructuring Agencies

- * **Personnel changes:** One of the most prominent proposals involves reducing the federal workforce significantly, emphasizing replacing career civil servants with appointees who align with the administration's policy views.
- * **Agency restructuring:** The proposal includes plans to shrink or even dismantle several federal agencies. For example, it advocates for reducing the size and authority of agencies like the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and the **Department of Education**, which they argue have grown beyond their constitutional mandates.

* **Power to the Executive Branch:** The project envisions a more centralized power within the executive branch, allowing political appointees to exert greater control over federal operations and reduce what they perceive as bureaucratic resistance.

2. Immigration and Border Security

* **Tighter border enforcement:** Project 2025 emphasizes the need for strict immigration controls, including bolstering border security measures, expediting the deportation of undocumented immigrants, and potentially ending the policy of "birthright citizenship."

* **Overhaul of asylum process:** Proposals suggest limiting eligibility for asylum and enacting stricter vetting processes to curb illegal immigration, which the plan characterizes as a threat to national security.

3. Climate and Energy Policy

* **Deregulation of the energy sector:** A key element of Project 2025 is rolling back regulations on the fossil fuel industry. This includes reducing restrictions on drilling, pipeline construction, and coal usage.

* **Ending "Net Zero" goals:** The plan proposes abandoning initiatives targeting net-zero carbon emissions, arguing that they hinder economic growth and energy independence.

* **Reducing funding for climate science:** Project 2025 suggests reallocating resources away from climate science research and regulatory programs within agencies like the EPA, emphasizing that energy policy should prioritize economic factors over environmental concerns.

4. Education Reform

* **Return of control to local authorities:** The plan advocates for significant reductions in the role of the federal government in education, pushing for a "school choice" agenda that would redirect funding to charter schools and private school voucher programs.

* **Curriculum changes:** It proposes stronger restrictions on teaching topics like Critical Race Theory (CRT) and gender identity, seeking to ban federal funding for any programs that include these concepts.

* **Eliminating the Department of Education:** Project 2025 calls for dismantling or substantially downsizing the Department of Education, shifting more control over education policy to states and local governments.

5. Social and Cultural Issues

* **Gender and Family Policies:** Project 2025 proposes restricting federal support for gender-affirming care and opposing policies that allow minors to transition genders. The document supports policies that favor traditional family structures and opposes what it terms "woke" ideologies.

* **Military and Defense Culture:** It advocates removing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs from the military, arguing that such policies distract from military readiness and focus. Project 2025 also promotes a traditionalist approach to military culture, emphasizing combat readiness and discipline.

6. Healthcare and Welfare Reforms

- * **Overhauling Medicaid and Social Services:** The project proposes tightening eligibility for Medicaid and welfare programs to reduce spending, focusing on "work-first" policies for welfare recipients.
- * **Healthcare deregulation:** Project 2025 promotes deregulation within the healthcare system, aiming to foster more market competition and reduce government involvement, which they argue would lower costs and improve quality.

7. Foreign Policy

- * **"America First" approach:** Project 2025 leans toward a more isolationist stance, suggesting reduced involvement in international organizations that it claims constrain American sovereignty. It recommends cutting funding for international aid and institutions, with a focus on bolstering national defense instead.
- * **Challenging China:** The project emphasizes a more confrontational stance toward China, framing it as a primary economic and security threat. It proposes policies to reduce American dependency on Chinese manufacturing and technology.

Key Players Behind Project 2025

- * **The Heritage Foundation** leads the initiative, but it is supported by a coalition of conservative think tanks and advocacy groups, such as the **American Enterprise Institute, Family Research Council, National Taxpayers Union, and Federalist Society.**
- * The project has also received input from former Trump administration officials and aligns closely with the conservative priorities associated with the Trump presidency, suggesting it could serve as a platform for a second Trump administration or any similarly conservative administration.

In summary, "Project 2025" represents a broad conservative policy agenda aimed at reshaping the federal government, with an emphasis on reducing federal power, advancing conservative social policies, and prioritizing economic and energy independence. The Heritage Foundation and its partner organizations intend it as a guide for a future administration to implement a distinctively conservative governance approach.

I thought this was useful in many areas, but missed some of the human dimension, so I asked again, requesting this:

Please summarise the main policy proposals in 'Project 2025', noting who is making these proposals. Please mention any particular focus on the role of women in society.

As a consequence, I got these additional explanations that I feel are worth adding to the above:

Project 2025, developed primarily by the conservative Heritage Foundation and endorsed by numerous right-leaning think tanks, outlines a sweeping set of proposals aimed at overhauling federal policy in areas like immigration, welfare, education, and

government structure. If implemented, these plans could greatly expand executive power, curtail the federal workforce, and reduce government involvement in various social programs. Here are some of its main policy focuses:

- * **Immigration Reform:** Project 2025 aims to restore policies from the Trump era, including heightened border security, restrictive asylum procedures, and a "Remain in Mexico" policy for asylum seekers. Additionally, it calls for limiting student and guest worker visas, especially for those from nations it deems "adversarial" to the U.S., and replacing family-based immigration with merit-based criteria
- * **Social Services and Welfare:** The proposal seeks to impose stricter requirements on social safety net programs, including work mandates for Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), and TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). It also advocates eliminating Head Start and reducing benefits in school meal programs, emphasizing a preference for in-home childcare incentives over universal daycare funding
- * **Economic Policy:** Project 2025 supports a two-bracket tax system that reduces the top income tax rate and the corporate tax rate, aiming to stimulate private sector growth by minimizing taxes on high-income earners. Critics argue that this could shift the tax burden onto lower-income groups and reduce public revenue
- * **Environmental and Regulatory Rollbacks:** It promotes significantly loosening environmental regulations, including withdrawing recent climate measures, to reduce what it views as "bureaucratic overreach" that stifles economic productivity. This includes scaling back regulations on polluting industries and opposing federal mandates on clean energy
- * **Reproductive Rights and Gender:** Project 2025 proposes limiting access to reproductive healthcare and restricting medication abortion. In terms of the role of women, the agenda leans towards supporting policies that incentivize traditional family structures. It encourages funding for parental support in the form of at-home childcare instead of external childcare facilities, indicating a preference for traditional gender roles in childcare and domestic life

* **Government Workforce Changes:** The plan seeks to eliminate protections for civil servants, making it easier to replace them with political appointees. This initiative, known as the “Schedule F” classification, would permit mass firings, ostensibly to allow each administration to implement its policies without opposition from entrenched federal employees

These policy recommendations, together with a planned expansion of executive authority, signal a far-reaching reorganization of government aligned with conservative values and a stronger role for state control over individual rights and welfare. While the proposal emphasizes limiting government spending, critics argue that its policies may reduce protections and resources for low-income populations and increase societal inequalities

What is clear is that this agenda is profoundly:

- * Anti-government and its obligation to act without bias or favour in the USA
- * Threatening to migrants in the USA, their spouses and dependents
- * Threatening to women and their reproductive rights
- * Threatening to free speech and equality in education and elsewhere
- * Damaging to the hopes of managing climate change
- * Harmful to those on low pay in the USA, with consequences for growing inequality.

There are millions of Americans who have reason to fear what Trump is doing, including many of those who voted for him, I am sure.

And with Trump now an elected autocrat, likely to exist without checks or balances on his power, the chance that he will try to deliver large elements of this programme is high.

If he does so, the Tories and Reform will try to do the same here, and as it stands, Labour is clueless as to what to do about that. We are not living in interesting times. We are living in dangerous times.