

Free Speech Friday for November 4, 2022

Billionaires & Social Media:

What Does Elon Musk's Purchase Mean for Twitter & Free Speech?

On October 28, Elon Musk, the world's richest man bought popular social media site Twitter, closing the deal at \$44 billion. Musk flirted with the purchase for close to a year before making it official, mostly due to technicalities in stock, but also free speech debates. Musk infamously pronounced he would grant former President Donald Trump's account back, which was suspended on the site back in January, two days after the capitol insurrection. Musk told the Securities and Exchange Commission in April, "I invested in Twitter as I believe in its potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe, and I believe free speech is a societal imperative for a functioning democracy. Twitter needs to be transformed as a private company." In less than a week, Musk has fired most top officials, including the former CEO, CFO, and CLO, and is holding off on "content moderation" until new formal committees are made. Musk's acquisition of Twitter comes on the heels of Donald Trump's launch of Truth Social and Ye's purchase of Parler. What are the implications of these deals for free speech and American democracy?

PACE Presents:

FREE SPEECH FRIDAYS

Billionaires and Social Media: What does Elon Musk's purchase mean for Twitter and Free Speech?



Join us for an open,
moderated discussion on
Friday, November 4th
Noon to 1:00 pm

Location: Red Clock outside
Woodburn Hall



**POLITICAL AND CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT**
COLLEGE OF ARTS + SCIENCES

**Free
Pizza!**

**For more information about Free Speech Fridays,
contact Prof. Carl Weinberg at crweinbe@indiana.edu**

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