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Elon Musk spent the last 24 hours spreading increasingly unhinged anti-trans content



Paul Squire, Aaron McDade

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Elon Musk said he would start "actively lobbying" against some health-care options for transgender kids. Scott Olson/Getty Images

- One of the world's richest men spent the last 24 hours sharing anti-trans content.
- Elon Musk promoted increasingly radical takes after right-wingers criticized him on Twitter.
- Musk even vowed he'd start "actively lobbying to criminalize" some healthcare for transgender children.

Elon Musk went all-in on sharing anti-transgender talking points after conservative pundits criticized him online on Thursday.

Right-wingers were furious at the billionaire Twitter CEO after "What is a Woman?", a 2022 online film by *The Daily Wire's* Matt Walsh that urges intolerance

of trans people and opposes medical intervention for trans children, had its visibility slashed on the platform for violating rules on hateful conduct.

Musk chimed in amid the blowback, saying the throttling was "a mistake by many people at Twitter" and that he was stepping in to make sure it would be changed.

He later said that the movie was available for those who followed *The Daily Wire*, but that "sensitive content just won't be pushed to people unless they ask for it or a friend sends it to them."

That promise didn't last long.

In a tweet hours later to his millions of followers, Musk himself shared the video and declared "Every parent should watch this." As of Friday afternoon, Musk had pinned the tweet sharing the video to the top of his profile.

"Consenting adults should do whatever makes them happy, provided it does not harm others, but a child is not capable of consent, which is why we have laws protecting minors," Musk added.

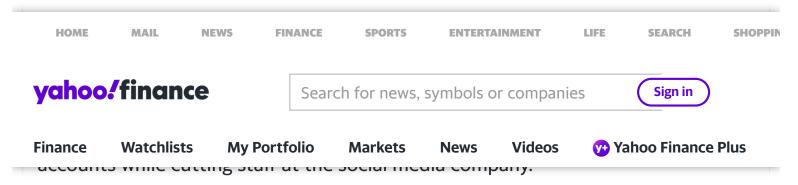
Republicans and conservative commentators have been pushing laws to limit the rights of transgender people, including restricting which bathroom they can use and threatening parents and doctors if they provide gender-affirming care to kids.

Prominent doctors and medical practitioners agree that options like puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy can be medically appropriate for trans youth. During his latest tweetstorm, Musk vowed to start "actively lobbying to criminalize" healthcare options for transgender children that he called "severe, irreversible changes." He also backed throwing advocates in jail without parole.

Musk didn't immediately respond to questions about his tweets or whether he was addressing the decision at Twitter to limit the video with staff.

Musk has a teenage daughter who is trans; she successfully petitioned a court last year to change her name from Musk, telling a judge that she no longer wished to be related to her father "in any way, shape or form."

It's the latest rightward turn for one of the world's richest men.



He's flirted with conspiracy theorists and helped launch the presidential campaign of GOP Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in a glitchy announcement on Twitter.

Top Twitter executives have fled en masse, with the platform's head of safety quitting on Thursday. The brand safety team also lost its head and possibly other staff, according to the Wall Street Journal and Ryan Mac of the New York Times.

The Journal reported that the departing A.J. Brown was one of the key executives responsible for making advertisers comfortable spending money to promote their brand on the website, an increasingly difficult job during Musk's tenure as the

company has reportedly lost significant advertising revenue since he took over.

Mac reported that multiple members of Twitter's remaining staff have made their accounts private over harassment from Twitter users stemming from Musk's reversal and other comments on the "What is a Woman?" controversy.

Musk himself appeared to confirm Friday morning in an interaction with Walsh and another user that the recent departures were connected to the controversy.

Zoe Schiffer of Platformer reported Friday that Brown's resignation may have been due to changes in Twitter's ad policy, adding that the trust and safety team has been told only to enforce the company's policies on ads that are scams or illegal. The directive has reportedly caused some confusion as policies are changed, and some staff are questioning what to do with ads that include hate speech, according to Schiffer.



Matt Walsh @ @MattWalshBlog · 6h

It's been a wild 24 hours. It began with Twitter labeling our film hate speech and completely suppressing it, and ends with all suppression lifted and Elon Musk himself tweeting out the film and urging people to watch it. A huge win.

2.786

10.1K

76.3K

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FilmLadd @FilmLadd · 6h Replying to @MattWalshBlog

Two people left twitter's trust and safety team in the past twelve hours. I'd like to know if that's related because that would be hilarious.

2.088

111 132.1K



Elon Musk 🔡 💟 @elonmusk · 6h



A screenshot of Musk appearing to confirm Friday morning that recent executive departures took place because of controversy over Walsh's film "What is a Woman?"Twitter

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BUSINESS INSIDER

Why it's not that great that everyone is flocking to their online bank

Josée Rose

Sat, Jun 3, 2023, 4:01 PM PDT • 3 min read





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Igor Golovniov/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images

- Smaller and regional banks are important for the US financial system.
- Banking turmoil earlier this year has eroded trust in these smaller firms.
- Deposits rose in the first quarter at Ally and Goldman Sachs's Marcus, which don't have branches or have far fewer than peers.

Online banks are winning the deposit wars, and this should be on all our radars.

Of course, this is no surprise given the banking turmoil earlier this year, but while it may seem like the obvious move to go with a big name bank like JPMorgan, Wells Fargo or Citibank, smaller and regional banks are key to the US financial ecosystem.

They're particularly important for lending in commercial real-estate, which include things ranging from office buildings to strip malls to warehouses. And any pullback in lending by smaller banks could hurt small and midsize businesses, as well as borrowers who are located far from major cities and urban centers.

"Regional banks have a combination of regional knowledge and expertise that

makes lending more efficient," C. Michael Zabel, a former executive at M&T, the Buffalo-based regional bank, told Dealbook in April. "They're also more likely to put deposits to work in their community."

Broadly, regional banks are staring down two main headwinds. First, the trust of their customers was eroded after the banking crisis, pushing them to start keeping money at at only the biggest lenders. Plus, the Federal Reserve's interest-rate-hike bonanza prompted customers to move money to Treasurys and money-market funds that now offer higher yields than the banks are able to.

This can be seen in shifting deposits. In the first quarter, Ally Financial and Goldman Sach's Marcus online bank saw them rise, while regional-bank powerhouses like US Bank, Truist Financial, and Citizens Financial saw deposits fall, according to The Wall Street Journal.

This comes on the heels of the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, the sale of First Republic to JPMorgan, as well as trouble for regional banks PacWest and Western Alliance.

Deposits at US banks collectively fell by the most on record in the first quarter, according to Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. data

Online banks — particularly high-yield savings accounts — offer higher savings rates than brick-and-mortar banks, and they've gotten even higher as the Fed kept raising interest rates. Currently, they're around 4% according to NerdWallet, while the national average yield for savings accounts is 0.25% APY, according to Bankrate's May 31 weekly survey of institutions.

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Twitter head for trust and safety resigns after Elon Musk criticizes handling of transgender content

A top Twitter executive resigned this week after Elon Musk criticized the safety and content moderation team's handling of tweets about a documentary called "What is a Woman?"

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