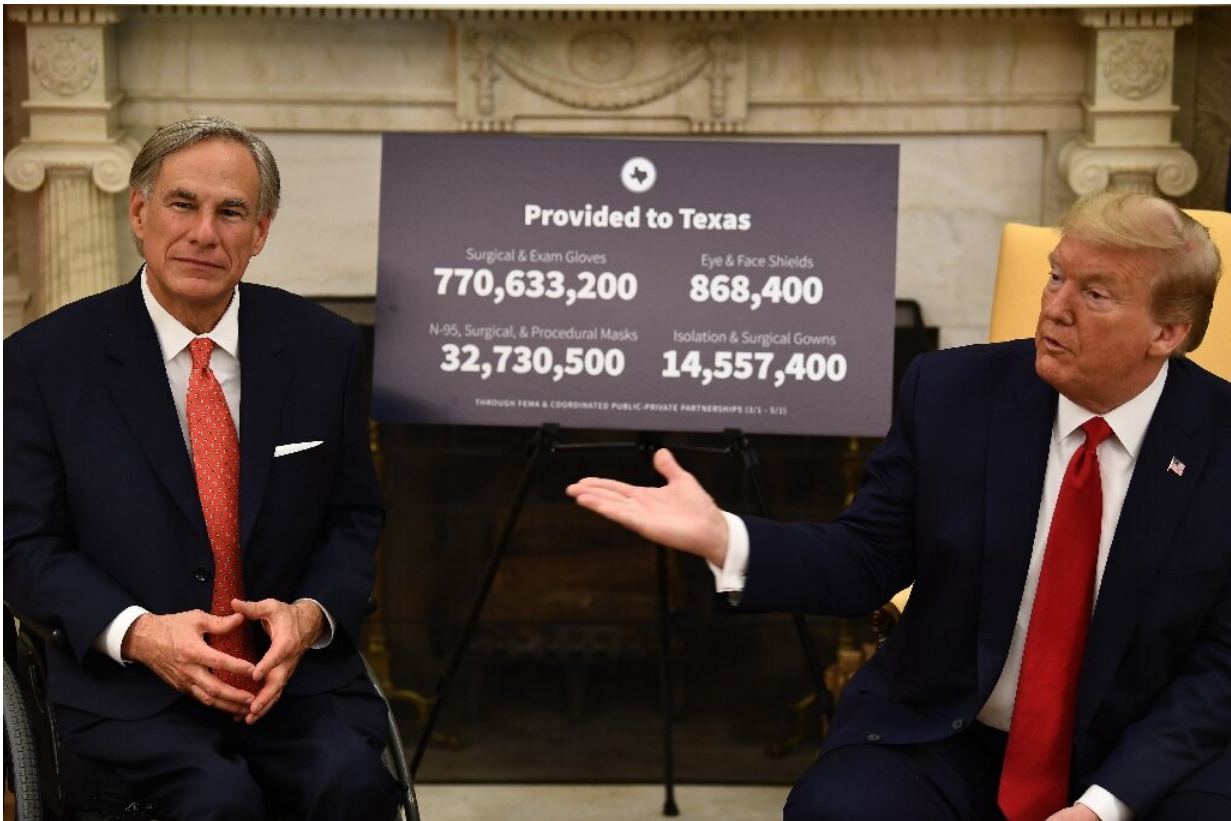


Texas bans social networks booting users over politics

September 10 2021



In this file photo former US President Donald Trump meets with Texas Governor Greg Abbott on May 7, 2020, in the Oval office of the White House in Washington, DC.

Texas on Thursday made it illegal for popular social media platforms to

ban users "simply based on their political viewpoints."

Political conservatives have accused Facebook, Twitter and other social [media](#) giants of stifling their voices, providing no evidence to support the claims.

Social media platforms have consistently defended themselves against such accusations.

Former US president Donald Trump was booted from Facebook and Twitter after a group of his supporters attacked the Capitol in January in an attempt to prevent his rightly elected successor from taking office.

People died during the attack, and there were concerns Trump would use social media to incite further violence.

"Social media websites have become our modern-day public square," Texas governor Greg Abbott said after signing the bill into law on Thursday.

"They are a place for healthy public debate where information should be able to flow freely - but there is a dangerous movement by social media companies to silence conservative viewpoints and ideas."

The law bars [social media](#) platforms with more than 50 million users from banning people based on their political viewpoints.

The law was expected to run afoul of Constitutional rights of private businesses to decide what is voiced on their platforms.

"This bill abandons conservative values, violates the First Amendment, and forces websites to host obscene, antisemitic, racist, hateful, and otherwise awful content," said Steve DelBianco, president of NetChoice

trade association.

"Moderation of user posts is crucial to keeping the internet safe for Texas families, but this bill would put the Texas government in charge of content policies."

© 2021 AFP

Citation: Texas bans social networks booting users over politics (2021, September 10) retrieved 9 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2021-09-texas-social-networks-booting-users.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.