



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES, IAMAW, AFL-CIO



Stop Criminal and Political Corruption of Project 2025 and Schedule F

Position: The Heritage Foundation’s Mandate for Leadership Project 2025 is a blueprint for the corruption of the executive branch on a scale large enough to distort American democracy. Analogous to an organized crime or racketeering scheme, Project 2025 articulates a pattern of systematic engagements on behalf of political and ideological operatives via an embedded clandestine network of presidential appointees. This network employs tactics and people who conceal their activities from law enforcement, regulatory authorities, Congress, and the constitutional obligations of government. Pitched as an ultraconservative prophecy, Project 2025 is little more than a manuscript for a true “deep state” through corruption and hidden agendas. It relies heavily on evading law and exploiting government authority, costing taxpayers billions of dollars each year through appointee salaries and the government programs they corrupt.

Understanding Project 2025: Corrupt Political Forces that Aligned for Mutual Benefit

Project 2025 is set to work like a distraction con: 1) it deliberately creates chaos within the executive branch through an onslaught of extreme, unchecked policies executed by political appointee loyalists, 2) this chaos provides a distraction for other nefarious actors to quietly engage in additional illegal or shady activity. While the public and elected officials are distracted by headlines of extreme religious and nationalist ideologies permeating U.S. government policies and programs (i.e., chaos), covert political operatives loyal to billionaires and other private interests will quietly execute deregulation initiatives and the fleecing of American assets as outlined in Project 2025 by exploiting or violating the law and ignoring the authority of Congress or the courts to intercede.

Project 2025 Installs a Supreme Leader instead of a U.S. President

Project 2025 openly embraces an extreme version of the ‘unitary executive theory’ of government, which is a departure from American constitutional democracy. Project 2025 planners state that Congress and the courts have very limited oversight over the president and the executive branch. As such, Project 2025 cedes the president unprecedented, “supreme” powers to intentionally undermine the system of checks and balances and the separation of powers established by the U.S. Constitution.

Project 2025 Employs ‘Schedule F’ to Enforce Loyalty Oaths and Intimidate Federal Employees

Project 2025 writes throughout that every supreme leader needs an army of underlings who have taken a loyalty oath to the leader instead of the country. To create this army of subjects, Project 2025 relies upon the resurrection of Executive Order 13957, known as Schedule F. Schedule F serves two purposes: 1) to install a limitless number of political appointees *without expirations dates* to work within the Executive Branch as covert operatives loyal to a person or ideology, and 2) to force the transition of tens of thousands of professional apolitical career federal employees into the same political employment status without legitimate access to the Prohibited Personnel Practices (PPP) and the Merit Systems Principles (MSP) that keep government honest, transparent, accountable, and fair. Under Schedule F, professional career federal employees will have no defenses against threats or intimidation from political appointees. Schedule F effectively nullifies the capability and duty of career federal employees to enforce the law or report fraud, waste, abuse, or illegal orders.

A Powerful and Dangerous Executive Branch and Big Government Under Project 2025

Without input or oversight from Congress or the public, Project 2025 cites that operatives are expected to commandeer government authority to weaponize resources against political enemies, improperly influence industries and financial markets, bankrupt public assets, and gain political control over ‘*inherently governmental functions*’ (e.g., as cited: the military, regulatory and law enforcement, trade policies, government contracts, national security, intelligence operations, infrastructure funding, etc.). Political control over *inherently governmental functions* yields incredible power, and it hinders law enforcement to provide Project 2025 operatives with immunity from the law.

Project 2025 and its Corrupt Agenda Against American Democracy

How to Talk to Democrats:

- You will not tolerate Project 2025 government corruption in the executive branch or military.
- You will defend career federal workers—who serve their country in civilian clothes—from Project 2025 political overreach and threats and intimidation by rogue presidential appointees.
- You will keep government programs and services transparent, accountable, and accessible. Project 2025 aims to send funding and resources to those who “support Project 2025 initiatives” and deny those who do not. That is unacceptable, especially with taxpayer dollars.
- You can prove it: 1) your roll call vote on the House 2024 FSGG Schedule F OPM rule defund attempt, 2) you cosponsored HR 1002 / S 399, Saving the Civil Service Act to outlaw Schedule F.

How to Talk to Republicans/Independents:

- This is not a political issue. Project 2025 and Scheule F are about government corruption through rogue, unaccountable political operatives working in the executive branch.
- Project 2025 creates a true deep state. Plans include weaponizing law enforcement, the military, and intelligence resources against whomever they deem as a “political enemy,” foreign or domestic.
- Project 2025 is about installing a supreme leader instead of a president. If that doesn’t scare you, imagine a Democratic Supreme Leader. The political pendulum will swing both ways.
- Project 2025 creates Big Government through an outsized power of the Executive Branch. Project 2025 embraces an executive branch and president strong enough to distort American democracy by offsetting the systems of check and balances against the other two branches of government.

Legislative Remedies:

- Pass the Saving the Civil Service Act (HR 1002 / S 399) to prohibit Schedule F-like authorities.
- Reform the Insurrection Act to prohibit the deployment of armed forces domestically except when all federal, state, and local law enforcement are overwhelmed by violence, to protect public safety and security only.
- Amend the Vacancies Act to prohibit any senate-confirmed political appointee from occupying any other position, including in an acting capacity, unless it follows the Department’s permanent order of succession.
- Prohibit Corruption: Outlaw loyalty oaths except for the official oath of office, outlaw ‘personal or private’ NDAs in government, prohibit non-FACA advisory groups, establish a career-reserved executive (SES) at the deputy secretary rank in each Department for permanent management continuity and policy/ethics enforcement.
- Prohibit Political Overreach: Empower inspectors general to investigate political corruption, save billions of dollars by limiting the number of non-PAS presidential appointees to its original 2000 from the current 4500, enforce qualifications for political hires, mandate comprehensive conflict of interest reporting by political hires, amend the Intergovernmental Personnel Act to prevent its use as a back door for political operative hires.

Political Realities:

- Project 2025 is a creation of religious nationalists and billionaires; each have their own goals. The nationalists want religion as a precipice of American government regardless of the cost to a legitimate democracy, and the billionaires just want government out of their way.
- The American Enterprise Institute published an op-ed against Project 2025 and Schedule F, and many former Republican appointees and elected officials are adamantly against both.
- Only 2 in 10 Americans think the president should have more power to change policy without waiting on Congress or the courts. [*AP-NORC Center for Public Opinion Research poll, 2024*]
- The numbers go up for GOP voters on a GOP president (6 in 10), and likewise for Dem voters on a Dem president (4 in 10), but neither wants an increase in power if the other party is in power. Project 2025 tactics for corruption and political overreach will not apply only to a GOP president. It will apply to any president unless it is stopped.
- The number of federal employees has not changed since 1951, at roughly two million. Since 1951, the American population has more than doubled.
- Federal employees are politically diverse. 32% register as Democratic, 33% register as Republican, 35% register as Independent [*GovExec poll, 2024*]. There is no liberal deep state; the workforce remains apolitical.
- 43% of Americans now identify as Independent; 27% of Americans identify equally as either Democratic or Republican. [*Gallop poll, 2024*]