



## **Big tech causing big battles in Washington**

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A back and forth battle online is now front and center in Washington, with new accusations Google is targeting conservative sites, after sites like Zero Hedge stopped being able to make ad money from the platform, and the right-leaning site, The Federalist was issued a warning for quote violating its “ policies on content related to race.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, issued a letter to the tech giant, accusing it of " abusing its monopoly power in an effort to censor political speech with which it disagrees" and adding, "The culture of free speech in this country is under attack."

It's a move some, like Matthew Feeney, have criticized.

“I think it’s not appropriate for powerful lawmakers to be perceived as bullying private companies that aren’t alleged to have broken any law," Feeney said in an interview Wednesday. He directs the Project on Emerging Technologies at the Libertarian Cato Institute.

Now a new law is in the works, just unveiled by a group of Senate Republicans, which would allow Americans to sue tech companies that censor political speech or hide content from competitors.

Google censorship wrong, dangerous & illegal. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8431737/Ted-Cruz-Tucker-Carlson-slam-Google-cautioning-Federalist.html> ...

This move follows a similar proposal from the Department of Justice.

It also comes after a feud between President Donald Trump and Twitter after one of the president's tweets was flagged for "glorifying violence."

It's hard to understate the role of big tech in politics today but now it's taking on a new one - angering both sides of the political spectrum, but for different reasons.

Many on the left, including presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, have called Facebook "a tool to spread disinformation that undermines our elections," after allowing false articles to remain on the site.

In an op-ed Wednesday in USA Today, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg reaffirmed the company's stance saying "accountability only works if we can see what those seeking our votes are saying, even if we viscerally dislike what they say." He also announced a plan to help four million people to register to vote.

It's a reminder different companies are allowed to have different policies, said Feeney.

"Although Google and Facebook are very large companies they're not governments as long as they are a private company they are allowed to associate with whatever content they want," he said.