

# Biden names noted Google critic to head DOJ antitrust efforts

Article

**The news:** President Joe Biden plans to nominate Google critic Jonathan Kanter, an antitrust lawyer with 20 years' experience, as the head of the Justice Department's Antitrust division, [per](#) Bloomberg. This is the latest move by the administration to facilitate a sweeping crackdown on Big Tech companies and curb anticompetitive practices.

**More on this:** In 2019, the FTC and DOJ similarly focused on the tech sector and divided jurisdiction over the Big Four, assigning the DOJ to investigate **Google and Apple** and giving the FTC authority to investigate **Facebook and Amazon**, [per](#) The American Bar.

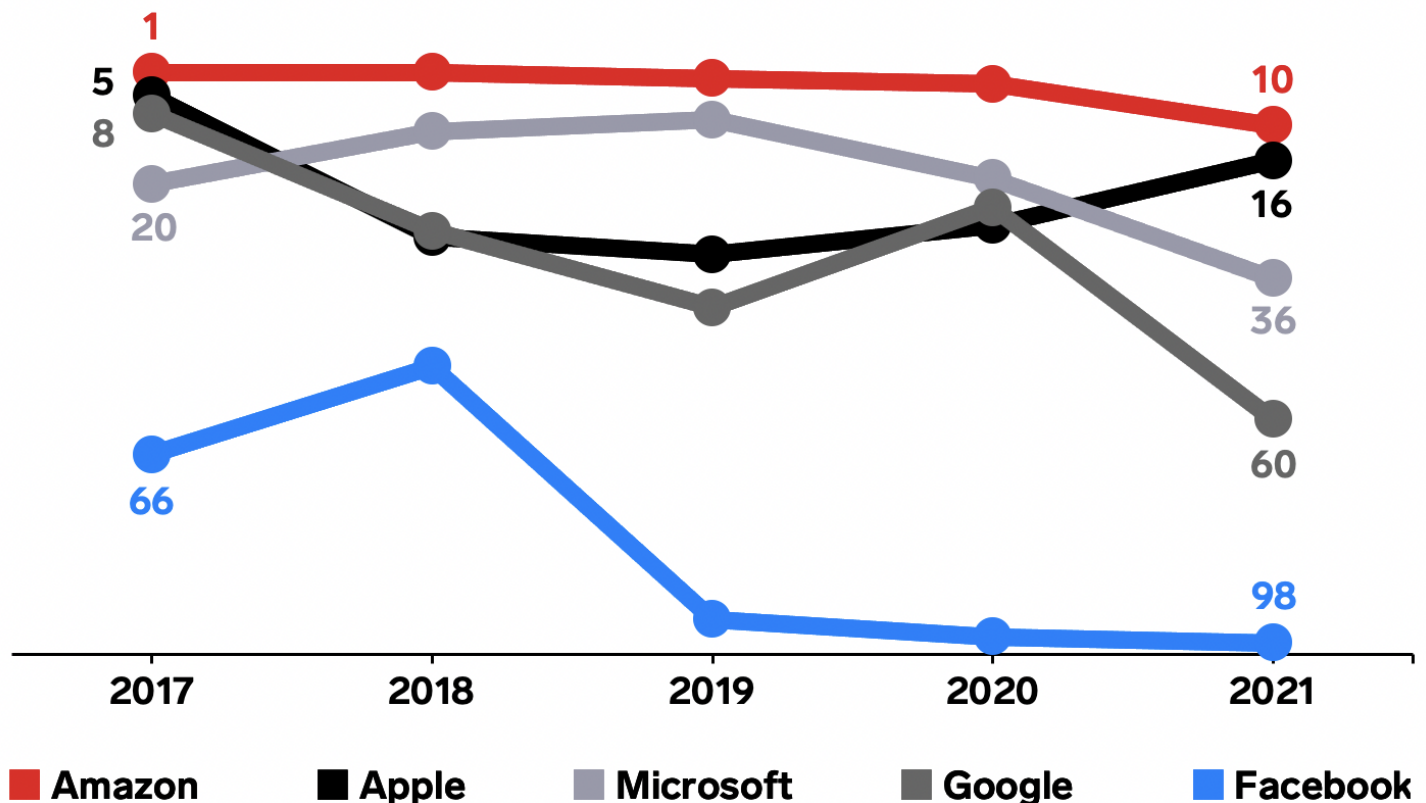
Kanter's nomination could be the latest blow to Big Tech, which has seen unprecedented bipartisan government action in recent months. He has represented complainants that have accused Google of anticompetitive behavior, most notably **Microsoft** and **Yelp**, according [to](#) Bloomberg. President Biden previously nominated another tech critic and antitrust reform advocate **Lina Khan** to lead the **Federal Trade Commission** (FTC).

- A bipartisan group of lawmakers [introduced](#) sweeping antitrust legislation in June aimed at **Amazon, Apple, Google, and Facebook**. Designed to tackle monopolistic practices and introduce regulation, the bills could result in Big Tech companies overhauling business practices.
- Khan's appointment, which was decided in a **69-28 bipartisan vote**, has already ruffled feathers in Silicon Valley. In July, she received pushback from [Facebook](#) and [Amazon](#), who demanded she recuse herself from their antitrust cases.
- President Joe Biden [signed](#) a **sweeping executive order** early July featuring 72 initiatives targeting corporate mergers, promoting user privacy, right-to-repair, and regulating data gathering practices.

**Kanter's appointment to the DOJ's antitrust division could further solidify the government's multi-pronged initiatives to curb Big Tech and introduce regulation.** Kanter's reputation and antitrust experience, however, is likely to spark calls of recusal from Google and other tech firms. Big Tech has collectively [ratcheted up](#) their lobbying efforts as well as been vocal about removing [antitrust critics](#) from ongoing lawsuits.

# Technology Company Reputation Rankings, April 2021

relative ranking by reputation from 1 to 100



Source: Axios/Harris, May 2021

Methodology: The Axios Harris Poll 100 is based on a survey of 42,935 US adults in a nationally representative sample conducted April 8–21, 2021. The Axios Harris poll first identifies the 100 most visible companies and then ranks them based on what respondents think of them.

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