

Gaetz nomination signals steeper antitrust challenges for Big Tech

Article

The news: President-elect **Donald Trump** nominated congressman **Matt Gaetz** of Florida to take over for **Merrick Garland** as attorney general and lead the **Department of Justice (DOJ)**.

If his appointment is confirmed by the Senate, Gaetz could intensify efforts on [Big Tech regulation](#) and antitrust enforcement, potentially altering the business landscape for years.

Why it's worth watching: Gaetz has a history of [going after Big Tech](#) and is a vocal supporter of antitrust action, ostensibly to prevent powerful companies from abusing their positions and restricting competition.

- **The Republican congressman has taken social media firms to task**, accusing them of censoring conservatives, particularly when Trump was banned from social media platforms after the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, per [Business Insider](#).
- **Gaetz has consistently rallied for robust antitrust action.** This alignment with current [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\) efforts](#) signals that Big Tech could face continuing regulatory oversight, even if FTC Chair **Lina Khan** departs.
- Gaetz, who sat on the House Judiciary antitrust committee, cross-examined **Facebook, Apple, Amazon, and Google** during a yearlong investigation into the power and influence of Big Tech in 2020.

Ethical complications: Some Republican senators are pushing back on Gaetz's nomination. They note that, in addition to a House Ethics Committee investigation, Gaetz was also investigated by the DOJ in 2023, although he wasn't charged in that sex-trafficking probe, per [Fox News](#).

Our take: Should he be the next AG, **Gaetz will likely accelerate any pending Big Tech antitrust cases** to prove his office's decisiveness and set the tone for the DOJ.

The biggest cases on the docket include an [antitrust bid to split up Google](#), and another regarding [Apple's App Store](#) dominance. However, going after the biggest targets risks longer, drawn-out cases and intensified Big Tech lobbying efforts to delay or challenge decisions.