



Is it accurate to say that much (not all) of the U.S. information ecosystem in late 2025 is left leaning?

Based on data from 2025, it is accurate to say that a significant portion of the U.S. information ecosystem, particularly among legacy media and certain digital platforms, is left-leaning in its coverage and audience composition. However, the ecosystem is highly fragmented and asymmetrical, with a dominant, highly engaged conservative media infrastructure existing in parallel.

Key findings regarding the U.S. information ecosystem in late 2025:

- **Audience and Trust Divide:** The landscape is intensely polarized, with Democrats and Republicans relying on and trusting largely different sets of media outlets. Democrats tend to trust a wider range of national news organizations, while Republicans show significantly lower trust in mainstream media, with only 8% expressing trust in 2025.
- **Left-Leaning Characteristics:**
 - **Mainstream/Legacy Media:** Many major national outlets are perceived as having a center-left or left-leaning bias.
 - **Audience Data:** Surveys indicate that audiences for a majority of studied outlets (such as The New York Times, Washington Post, CNN, and MSNBC) lean to the left of the average American.
 - **Demographics:** Some major social media platforms, including X (formerly Twitter), have shown a higher proportion of liberal users, although this varies by platform.
- **Right-Leaning Characteristics:**
 - **Cable and High-Engagement Media:** Conservative media has a dominant footprint, particularly in cable news, where Fox News has maintained the top position for 94 consecutive quarters.
 - **Conservative Disenchantment:** In 2025, 62% of Republicans reported having "none at all" trust in mass media.
- **Fragmented Landscape:** The divide is less about "left vs. right" for some consumers and more between "active" (seeking out news) and "passive" (receiving news via social feeds).

Summary of 2025 Landscape

While the "mainstream" media ecosystem (legacy print, top cable networks like CNN/MSNBC) frequently aligns with left-leaning perspectives, the total ecosystem is divided into distinct silos. Conservative outlets like Fox News, Newsmax, and The Daily Wire represent a powerful, distinct, and heavily consumed portion of the overall information landscape.

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Trust in Media 2025: Which news sources Americans use and ...

May 29, 2025 — The American news landscape remains polarized by political party...

YouGov



The Political Gap in Americans' News Sources

Jun 9, 2025 — For instance, the average audience member of Forbes sits closest to the...

Pew Research Center



Americans are divided by party in the sources they turn to for political ...

Jan 23, 2020 — Next come the radio shows of Sean Hannity (19%) and Rush Limbaugh (17%)...

Pew Research Center



Show all

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3. Nonprofits, Foundations, and Influence

- **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):** In 2025, many large nonprofits and CSOs are viewed as left-wing or aligned with progressive causes, particularly regarding advocacy on climate, social justice, and reproductive rights.
- **"Information Integrity" Field:** The field of misinformation research and content moderation has been dominated by left-leaning experts, though this field has faced major disruptions and funding gaps in 2025.
- **Political Activity:** While 501(c)(3) nonprofits are prohibited from endorsing candidates, many engage in issues-based lobbying and advocacy (e.g., the ACLU opposing Project 2025), which often lean left. 

4. The Counter-Ecosystem (Right-Leaning)

- **Alternative Media:** Republicans increasingly rely on alternative sources such as OAN, Newsmax, and [Fox News](#), which have higher trust among their base.
- **Influencer Dominance:** A significant trend in 2025 is the rise of alternative media personalities, podcasters, and influencers on TikTok and X, who often cater to conservative audiences and operate outside traditional media constraints. 

Summary: The U.S. information ecosystem in 2025 is highly fragmented, with a left-leaning bias in mainstream institutions, but it is heavily contested by a powerful, growing, and distinct conservative alternative, particularly on social media. 

Dive deeper in AI Mode



Is it accurate to say that much (not all) of the U.S. information ecosystem in late 2025 is left leaning? That inquiry means not just media or tech platforms but nonprofits and their influence too?

 AI Overview

Based on data from 2025, it is considered accurate to say that a significant portion of the U.S. information ecosystem is left-leaning, particularly in mainstream media, academic institutions, and many large civil society organizations (CSOs). However, this is not

absolute; it is characterized by intense polarization and a growing, highly influential right-leaning alternative media landscape.

The landscape in late 2025 is defined by a deep divide rather than a monolithic, one-sided ecosystem.

1. Mainstream Media and Information Trusted Sources

- **Democratic Trust:** Democrats and those who lean Democratic are far more likely to trust national news organizations and have higher trust in the media in general, with trust in outlets like CNN and MSNBC being significantly higher among this group.
- **Declining Overall Trust:** Trust in mass media has fallen to a new low of 28% in 2025, with only 8% of Republicans expressing trust in the media, compared to higher, but declining, levels among Democrats.
- **Structural Leans:** Major outlets (e.g., *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, NBC, PBS, NPR) are generally perceived to have a left-of-center editorial bias.

2. Tech Platforms and AI

- **User Base Distribution:** While many platforms were previously dominated by liberal users, 2025 data shows a shift. X (Twitter) has seen a sharp increase in conservative users, while other platforms remain more balanced.
- **Algorithmic Behavior:** Algorithms tend to amplify content based on user engagement rather than inherent political bias, meaning users often create their own echo chambers.
- **AI Development:** The Biden administration's "AI Bill of Rights" initiatives aimed to guide AI development, which some conservative policymakers labeled as promoting "woke AI" in federal government.

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