



FIELD REPORT : Q1 2022

BUSINESS LEADERS ON JANUARY 6 AND THE RULE OF LAW

 **BUSINESSFORWARD**
FOUNDATION

INTRODUCTION

This report looks at what some of America's most respected companies had to say in response to the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Corporate America spoke up to condemn the violence and antidemocratic actions, suspend and reevaluate its political contributions, and defend America's rule of law.

At Business Forward briefings, small business leaders tend to make one or more of three points to explain why a strong rule of law is critical to a successful business environment.

WE BENEFIT FROM OPERATING IN THE WORLD'S "SAFE HAVEN" FOR BUSINESS. WE NEED TO PROTECT THAT.

Ignoring government corruption will make us look like the rest of the world, and that will make it harder for us to attract investment, open new markets, and create new jobs.

TRANSPARENCY IS A POWERFUL FORCE IN BUSINESS. WE NEED MORE OF IT IN GOVERNMENT.

We're responsive to our stockholders, employees, and customers. Government should be more responsive to its citizens. Increased disclosure of political donations would ensure a government that listens to Main Street — not just big, corporate donors.

IF WE ALLOW CORRUPTION IN ELECTIONS, IT WILL SPREAD TO THE REST OF GOVERNMENT.

Gerrymandering, voter suppression, and claims of voter fraud are all antidemocratic ways to stay in office. An official without fear of her next election is more likely to break the rules.

BUSINESSES CONDEMN THE ANTIDEMOCRATIC ACTIONS ON JANUARY 6TH

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The Ford Motor Company condemns the violent and antidemocratic actions today. These were destructive acts against our shared principles and beliefs of a peaceful transition of power. We commit to working together, with respect and empathy, to uphold core American values...

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- JIM FARLEY
CEO, FORD
DEARBORN, MI

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Holding free and safe elections and resolving our differences peacefully are foundational to the functioning of democracy. The lawlessness and violence occurring on Capitol Hill today is the antithesis of democracy and we strongly condemn it.

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- SUNDAR PICHAI
CEO, GOOGLE
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA

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We condemn these acts of violence in our nation's capital. Our elected leaders must call for a swift, clear end to the violence so that Congress can fulfill its Constitutional duties and our nation can continue toward the peaceful transition of power to President-elect Biden on January 20.

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- ERIC J. PAN
CEO, ICI
WASHINGTON, DC

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The Aluminum Association condemns any attempt to subvert our democratic process through force or otherwise. This is not free, and certainly not responsible, speech. We are hopeful for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing situation at the United States Capitol. It is time for the country to move forward.

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- TOM DOBBINS
CEO, ALUMINUM ASSOCIATION
ARLINGTON, VA

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I am shocked and saddened by what I've seen today. We at Visa stand 100% behind the results of the election and the collective voices of the citizens of this country. We are fully supportive of a smooth transition of power which has been the case for almost two and a half centuries.

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- ALFRED KELLY
CEO, VISA
FOSTER CITY, CA

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IBM condemns today's unprecedented lawlessness and we call for it to end immediately. These actions have no place in our society, and they must stop so our system of democracy can work.

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- ARVIND KRISHNA
CEO, IBM
ARMONK, NY

BUSINESSES SUSPEND AND REEVALUATE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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At this crucial time, our focus needs to be on working together for the good of the entire nation. Consistent with this view, we will suspend all of our political contributions to those elected officials who voted against certification of the electoral college votes...

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- COMCAST
PHILADELPHIA, PA

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ViacomCBS supports peaceful civic engagement and the orderly transition of power in the democratic process... We therefore condemn the recent attack on the U.S. Capitol, and have paused contributions from our political action committee to members of Congress who voted against certification of the 2020 U.S. Electoral College results.

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- VIACOMCBS
NEW YORK, NY

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In light of last week's attack on the U.S. Capitol, Walmart's political action committee is indefinitely suspending contributions to those members of Congress who voted against the lawful certification of state electoral college votes.

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- WALMART
BENTONVILLE, AR

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We also condemn the disgraceful events of last week and suspended all political donations to reassess and ensure that our contributions remain consistent with our values.

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- AFLAC
COLUMBUS, GA

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[Eli Lilly will] suspend political giving to those who voted against certification of the 2020 election results... we expect any candidate we support to demonstrate respect for people and respect for our democratic process and institutions.

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- ELI LILLY AND COMPANY
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

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Lyft has not supported any of the Members of Congress who voted against certifying the electoral college and we're committed to not supporting them in the future. We have joined almost 200 business leaders urging Congress to certify the electoral results for President-elect Joe Biden.

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- LYFT
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

BUSINESSES DEFEND THE RULE OF LAW AND A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER

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We call for the peaceful transition of the U.S. government. The violence in Washington, D.C. tarnishes a two-century tradition of respect for the rule of law. We look forward to engaging with President-Elect Biden and his administration to move the nation forward.

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- CHEVRON
SAN RAMON, CA

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The events unfolding in our nation's capital are appalling and violate the better values of our nation. It's time for the peaceful transition of power our Constitution requires and the mob standing in the way must be condemned. The American people have spoken, and now more than ever we must stand together.

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- STEPHEN J. UBI
CEO, PHRMA
WASHINGTON, DC

“

We applaud all those who stood strong to thwart an appalling insurrection bent on blocking the peaceful transfer of power following a free and fair election. Freedom, democracy and rule of law are America's bedrock and must never be usurped. We congratulate President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris on their Electoral College victory. There is much to be done to move the country forward.

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- JOHN STANKEY
CEO, AT&T
DALLAS, TX

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The peaceful transition of power is a cornerstone of American democracy, and regardless of politics the violence at the U.S. Capitol does not reflect who we are as a nation. It's imperative that we come together as a country and reinforce the values and ideals that unite us.

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- MARY BARRA
CEO, GM
DETROIT, MI

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The violence and lawlessness that took place in Washington today was disgraceful and un-American, and has no place in our democracy. Prudential and its leaders condemn it unreservedly. We commend Congress for returning to the Capitol this evening to fulfill their constitutionally mandated duty to confirm the election results, and to continue the peaceful, orderly transition of power.

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- CHARLES F. LOWREY,
CEO, PRUDENTIAL FINANCIAL
NEWARK, NJ

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