

DRAFT — SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

# An open proposal for three people

*A Labor Day truce, held on a streamer's platform, that opens and closes on one sentence*

## **"Twitter is not the operating system we need."**

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This is a proposal for three people, and it is written in the open so that no one can later say it was never made, never delivered, or never clear. The three are Hasan Piker, Neera Tanden, and Hunter Biden. What it asks of them is one sentence, said together at the start and again at the end of one sitting: "Twitter is not the operating system we need." They are named in the body and not in the headline because the proposal is theirs to accept or decline, but the case for it belongs to everyone who has watched them argue for a month. Any of the three is free to say no, in public, for reasons they are willing to have on the record.

### **What is proposed, why, and why now**

The proposal is that the three of them sit down together on Hasan Piker's stream over Labor Day weekend, with Hunter Biden in the referee's chair, for as long as it takes, under one fixed rule: each of them opens and closes with the sentence "Twitter is not the operating system we need." What happens between the opening and the close is theirs. Nothing here asks any of them to give up a single position in the fights they have been having, and nothing here pretends those fights are small.

The reason to do it is that the fight is being held in a building the other side owns. Every round of the last month ran on X, from the stretch of August 7 to 12 in which Tanden mentioned Piker in 26 posts, to Elon Musk quote-tweeting Piker on August 10, to the condemnations of August 24 through 28, to Piker deleting the app on August 31 and posting again from a browser within hours. On that platform Musk collects the traffic, sets the feed, and profits from the argument whoever wins it. A peer-reviewed study published in *Nature* this year found that X's feed shows news-organization posts 58 percent less often and political-activist posts 27 percent more often than a neutral feed, and moves its users measurably rightward inside seven weeks. That is the referee all three have been arguing in front of, and it is not neutral.

The reason to do it now is that the window is open and closing. *New York Magazine* has just described Tanden as the establishment's strongest soldier spending her time on Piker instead of on Trump. Biden said on August 27 that Democrats should stop smearing Piker and on August 30 that he will back whoever opposes Trump, which makes him the one person in this quarrel who has

publicly offered to convene it. Labor Day weekend is the last long weekend before the fall, when people are home and the news is thin, and a truce staged then is one people will actually see.

## What a truce is for

A truce is not a retreat. It is a turn. The three of them have spent a month facing each other, and every camera in the country has been pointed at the space between them. A truce declared before Labor Day is a statement, made in public, about which way the coalition is facing when the fall begins, and that statement is worth more than anything said in the argument itself.

Labor Day is the one weekend on the calendar that the Democratic coalition has always used to show up together, at the parade, the picnic, the union hall, and the fairground, and to be seen doing it. This year it is arriving at that weekend mid-quarrel, with its most prominent institutional voice and its largest independent audience trading condemnations, and with the party's response so far being to pick sides in a fight about media personalities rather than to use the one date on the calendar built for standing in the same place. That is a choice, and it is being made by default. The proposal is a way to make a different one before the weekend is gone.

Audiences read direction before they read content. When a person or a party is seen turning toward the shared fight, the audience credits the turn before it hears the reasons; when a person or a party is seen turning away from it, toward a grievance with an ally, the audience charges the turn no matter how good the grievance is. That is the whole power of the sentence at the open and the close. It is a turn made visibly, at the same time, by three people who disagree about almost everything else, and it tells everyone watching that the disagreement is real but the orientation is shared.

This is also what offense looks like. Offense in a political season is not the loudest attack; it is setting the day's argument instead of answering someone else's. For a month, the day's argument has been set by whoever had the most cutting post about one of the three. A truce takes that power back. It says the coalition will choose its own subject, on its own ground, on its own clock, and the subject is not each other.

The floor of what this produces is easy to state. The coalition comes out of Labor Day with one sentence said in unison by three people who could not agree on the weather, and that alone is a blow against the place where the argument has been living. The ceiling is higher, and it is theirs to reach. Nothing in this requires agreement on anything but the turn. The truce holds the fights in place; it does not settle them. What it changes is which way the room is facing when the fighting resumes.

## What this does not ask

It does not ask anyone to apologize, retract, endorse, or reconcile. It does not ask Tanden to say Piker is right about anything, or Piker to say the same of her, or Biden to referee anything but the clock and the tone. It does not ask anyone to leave X, delete an account, or promise never to post there again. It does not ask for a joint statement beyond the one sentence, and it does not ask that sentence to mean more than it says. It asks for a room, a chair, an open clock, and two readings of one line. That is the entire request, and it is the reason saying no is harder than it looks.

## Why each of them comes out ahead whether or not they win the argument

Anyone reading this can check what follows.

Piker would host on ground he controls. His election-night stream peaked at 313,413 people watching at once and reached 7.5 million over the night; his everyday audience of about 27,000 is made up of exactly the voters the party spends millions trying to reach and mostly does not. The event would run on his subscriptions, his bits, his moderation, and his clip channel, so the money that moves is money he already holds, at a moment when AT&T, JPMorgan, and Dunkin' have pulled Twitch ads and Twitch's political label is cutting his ad rate. If the argument goes against him, he still keeps the audience and the record of having hosted his critics in good faith.

Tanden would get an uninterrupted block to Piker's audience, forward-facing only, to say what the party believes and what it wants from the left, in a spoken room where her tweet archive is not the medium. Her 2021 nomination died on that archive. A stream is the one venue in this fight where her structural weakness is not the weapon in play. If the argument goes against her, she still stops feeding the story that was just written about her.

Biden would take the convener's chair, which is the role his entire year has been building toward. If either of the others declines, he still stands as the one who tried to bring them together against the enemy he keeps naming.

The party, which is not in the room but is watching, would get containment. The autopsy fight, the Platner fight, and the Piker fight have all been covered as a party at war with itself, and that coverage lands on the winner of each round as much as on the loser. One round held in a room with a referee, an open clock, and a shared closing line would be the first version of this quarrel that could be covered as adults working something out.

There are others who belong in the background of this and not in the chairs. Mehdi Hasan has argued with all three, built a platform of his own, and already

keeps one foot outside X's gravity. Friedlander has been writing the frame the three are fighting inside. Jon Stewart has been making the same argument about the platform, to a larger audience, for longer than any of them. Rachel Maddow and Heather Cox Richardson each reach a large part of the audience in question, by different roads, with a standing that ratings alone did not build. Any of the five could sit in the second row, and the room would be better for it. But the proposal is for three, because three is the number that can say the sentence and have it mean something.

And all three of them like to fight. This is not a request to stop. It is a request to fight where the house does not take a cut.

### **What it costs to leave the fight where it is**

The case for doing this is not only what each of them gains. It is what all of them, and everyone who depends on them, are already paying by not doing it.

The first cost is the audience. The people who set the terms of political argument in this country are a very small group; Pew found that six percent of political posters produce 73 percent of political posts. That group has spent a month arguing about these three, on a platform that suppresses the news accounts in that group and amplifies the activists, and every day the fight stays there it trains that group to keep coming back to the one room where its work is least likely to be seen straight. The people who left for other platforms after the 2024 election have mostly drifted back or gone quiet; the alternative that grew fastest, Bluesky, has lost about half its active users since then, and more than four in five news influencers are still on X. Nobody built the second room, because everybody was busy fighting in the first one.

The second cost is the coverage. Every week this argument runs on X, the story written about it is the same story: a party at war with itself, its strongest institutional voice fighting a streamer, its largest young audience fighting the institutions, its most recognizable surname fighting everyone. That story does not distinguish winners. It is the same story whether Tanden or Piker had the better week, and it is the story the other side would pay to have written.

The third cost is the calendar, and this week supplied the examples. On Thursday, September 3, the Justice Department asked the Supreme Court to lift a lower-court order blocking parts of a Postal Service rule, issued under the president's March 31 executive order on elections, that would require federally approved mail-ballot envelopes and the uploading of voter data to a Postal Service portal; the Court gave challengers until Tuesday morning to respond, and North Carolina and Alabama begin sending ballots this week. The same day the House passed a bill 237 to 169 with 33 Democrats crossing to vote with the majority. The impeachment resolutions on file in the House carry one or two cosponsors apiece

and no scheduled action. On Wednesday the president posted that the United States had given Ukraine and NATO hundreds of billions of dollars free of charge and that he would seek repayment, while his envoys prepared to travel to Kyiv and Moscow. Each of those is a story that pushes the last one out of view, and none of them was the subject of the coalition's argument this week. A coalition that has all of that in front of it and is still spending its days arguing about each other, in the one room where the argument does the most damage and the least good, is making a choice about where its attention goes, and the choice is visible to everyone watching. That is not a threat and it is not a prediction. It is a description of the last month.

The fourth cost is the one that is hardest to see because it is the absence of something. Each of the three has an audience that would move if they moved. None has moved, because none wants to be the first to leave and find the room empty. That is a coordination problem, and coordination problems are not solved by anyone deciding privately. They are solved when the people involved say the same thing at the same time in front of everyone. That is what the opening and closing sentence is for. It is the least any of them could agree to and the most useful thing any of them could say together.

### **How it would work, so no one is surprised**

The proposed start is Sunday, September 6, in the evening, Eastern time, on Piker's channel, and the three are free to move it anywhere inside the weekend. A yes from any two of them is enough to schedule it; the third chair stays open on camera until it is filled or the stream ends. The stream would be open-ended, with no fixed clock. Biden would referee and keep the exchange forward-facing. Each principal would get an uninterrupted opening block. Chat would be throttled to curated questions, and moderation would be Piker's. The fixed sentence would be available to any party as a clean exit at any moment, so the event always ends on the shared line rather than on the last exchange. A clip team would cut in real time and post everywhere, X last. A one-week and a one-month check-in would be scheduled on camera before sign-off. Nothing in the format requires anyone to recant anything; the only concession built into it is the venue.

### **What happens to this proposal**

It went to the three of them on Thursday, September 3, and it was published in the same form at the same time, so that the people watching have a record and no one can say it was not made. An answer by Friday would leave the weekend open for the sitting it describes. That is a suggestion about the calendar, not a deadline; the weekend is when it is.

None of the three has accepted, and none is obliged to. But the floor of the offer is plain enough that declining it is a statement in itself: that a shared sentence

against the platform the other side owns, said once, on a holiday weekend, at no cost to any position anyone holds, was not worth saying. Anyone who reaches that conclusion should be willing to reach it in public, for reasons they are willing to have read back to them. A yes is any reply, public or private, from any of the three; nothing needs to be signed. If any of the three answers, the answer will be added here in their own words. If none does, that will be recorded too, without comment.

Every figure above is in the public record, and sources are listed at the end. No outside reviewer has yet read this; if one of the three, or anyone else, wants to name one, the invitation is open.

## Sources for the figures above

Tags follow house convention: [P] provable primary or direct record; [D] documented secondary reporting. Partisan sources are marked. Entries marked "URL to be added" were located in reporting but the link was not captured in this pass.

| Claim                                                                                                                               | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Tag |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Neera Tanden mentioned Hasan Piker in 26 posts, Aug 7–12, 2026                                                                      | Ali Harb, post on X, Aug 2026<br><a href="https://x.com/Harbpeace/status/2092982526654525453">https://x.com/Harbpeace/status/2092982526654525453</a>                                                                                                                                                                              | [D] |
| Elon Musk quote-tweeted Piker, Aug 10, 2026                                                                                         | International Business Times UK<br><a href="https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/elon-musk-has-an-piker-controversy-white-race-comments-1813634">https://www.ibtimes.co.uk/elon-musk-has-an-piker-controversy-white-race-comments-1813634</a>                                                                                                | [D] |
| Democratic condemnations, Aug 24–28, 2026 (Jeffries on CNN; Ossoff, Rosen, Booker, Schneider, Gottheimer, Slotkin, Sherman, Martin) | Forbes, Sara Dorn, Aug 28, 2026<br><a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/saradorn/2026/08/28/heres-what-has-an-piker-said-and-why-its-so-controversial/">https://www.forbes.com/sites/saradorn/2026/08/28/heres-what-has-an-piker-said-and-why-its-so-controversial/</a>                                                          | [D] |
| Piker said on stream he deleted the Twitter app, Aug 31, 2026                                                                       | Grabien transcript<br><a href="https://news.grabien.com/story/hasan-piker-says-he-s-deleted-twitter-i-m-going-back-to-mental-sanity">https://news.grabien.com/story/hasan-piker-says-he-s-deleted-twitter-i-m-going-back-to-mental-sanity</a>                                                                                     | [P] |
| Piker posting on X again within hours                                                                                               | Twitchy, Sept 1, 2026 (partisan source; fact corroborated by his account activity)<br><a href="https://twitchy.com/grateful-calvin/2026/09/01/hasan-piker-says-he-has-deleted-twitter-from-his-phone-n2431872">https://twitchy.com/grateful-calvin/2026/09/01/hasan-piker-says-he-has-deleted-twitter-from-his-phone-n2431872</a> | [D] |
| X feed shows news-organization posts 58% less often, activist posts 27% more often; rightward shift over seven weeks                | Gauthier et al., "The political effects of X's feed algorithm," Nature (2026); reported in Forbes, Feb 2026 — DOI/URL to be added                                                                                                                                                                                                 | [D] |
| New York Magazine profile framing Tanden as fighting Piker rather than Trump                                                        | New York Magazine / Anthony LaMesa, Sept 2026<br><a href="https://x.com/NYMag/status/2095077109157056593">https://x.com/NYMag/status/2095077109157056593</a>                                                                                                                                                                      | [D] |
| Hunter Biden: Democrats should stop smearing Piker, Aug 27, 2026                                                                    | The Hill, "Rising," Aug 27, 2026 — URL to be added                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | [D] |
| Hunter Biden: will back whoever opposes Trump, Aug 30, 2026                                                                         | Morning Honey, Aug 30, 2026<br><a href="https://www.morninghoney.com/p/hunter-biden-says-democrats-must-support-whomever-opposes-trump-ahead-of-2028">https://www.morninghoney.com/p/hunter-biden-says-democrats-must-support-whomever-opposes-trump-ahead-of-2028</a>                                                            | [D] |
| Piker election-night peak of 313,413 concurrent viewers, Nov 6, 2024                                                                | Streams Charts channel record; Tubefilter<br><a href="https://www.tubefilter.com/2024/11/07/streams-charts-election-night-livestream-viewership-youtube/">https://www.tubefilter.com/2024/11/07/streams-charts-election-night-livestream-viewership-youtube/</a>                                                                  | [P] |
| 7.5 million cumulative live views on election night                                                                                 | Piker's own post on X (self-reported)<br><a href="https://x.com/hasanthehun/status/1854336295545295314">https://x.com/hasanthehun/status/1854336295545295314</a>                                                                                                                                                                  | [D] |
| About 27,000 average concurrent viewers                                                                                             | SullyGnome channel analytics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | [P] |

| Claim                                                                                      | Source                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Tag |
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|                                                                                            | <a href="https://sullygnome.com/channel/hasanabi">https://sullygnome.com/channel/hasanabi</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |
| AT&T, JPMorgan Chase, and Dunkin' pulled Twitch ads                                        | Bloomberg via Yahoo Finance<br><a href="https://www.yahoo.com/news/jpmorgan-t-pull-twitch-ads-182017294.html">https://www.yahoo.com/news/jpmorgan-t-pull-twitch-ads-182017294.html</a>                                                                                                                                                         | [D] |
| Twitch political-content label reduces ad revenue for political streamers (CEO Dan Clancy) | Tubefilter, Nov 2024 — URL to be added                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | [D] |
| Tanden's 2021 OMB nomination withdrawn over tweet history                                  | Slate, Mar 2, 2021<br><a href="https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2021/03/neera-tanden-withdraws-cabinet-nomination-omb-director.html">https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2021/03/neera-tanden-withdraws-cabinet-nomination-omb-director.html</a>                                                                                            | [P] |
| 6% of political tweeters produce 73% of political tweets                                   | Pew Research Center, Oct 23, 2019<br><a href="https://pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/10/23/a-small-group-of-prolific-users-account-for-a-majority-of-political-tweets-sent-by-u-s-adults/">https://pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/10/23/a-small-group-of-prolific-users-account-for-a-majority-of-political-tweets-sent-by-u-s-adults/</a> | [P] |
| Bluesky active users down roughly half from late-2024 peak                                 | TechCrunch, Aug 11, 2026 (Similarweb data)<br><a href="https://techcrunch.com/2026/08/11/blueskys-active-user-base-is-shrinking-as-its-focus-expands-beyond-the-app/">https://techcrunch.com/2026/08/11/blueskys-active-user-base-is-shrinking-as-its-focus-expands-beyond-the-app/</a>                                                        | [D] |
| 82% of news influencers still hold X accounts; 6% Bluesky-only                             | Pew Research Center, May 29, 2025<br><a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/05/29/bluesky-has-caught-on-with-many-news-influencers-but-x-remains-popular/">https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/05/29/bluesky-has-caught-on-with-many-news-influencers-but-x-remains-popular/</a>                                       | [P] |
| Party infighting covered as the story (2024 autopsy handling; Platner episode)             | The Hill; Commonweal — URLs to be added                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | [D] |
| Public simultaneous statement as the solution to a coordination problem                    | Michael Suk-Young Chwe, Rational Ritual (Princeton, 2001)<br><a href="https://books.google.com/books/about/Rational_Ritual.html?id=xaF5HXfAacAC">https://books.google.com/books/about/Rational_Ritual.html?id=xaF5HXfAacAC</a>                                                                                                                 | [D] |