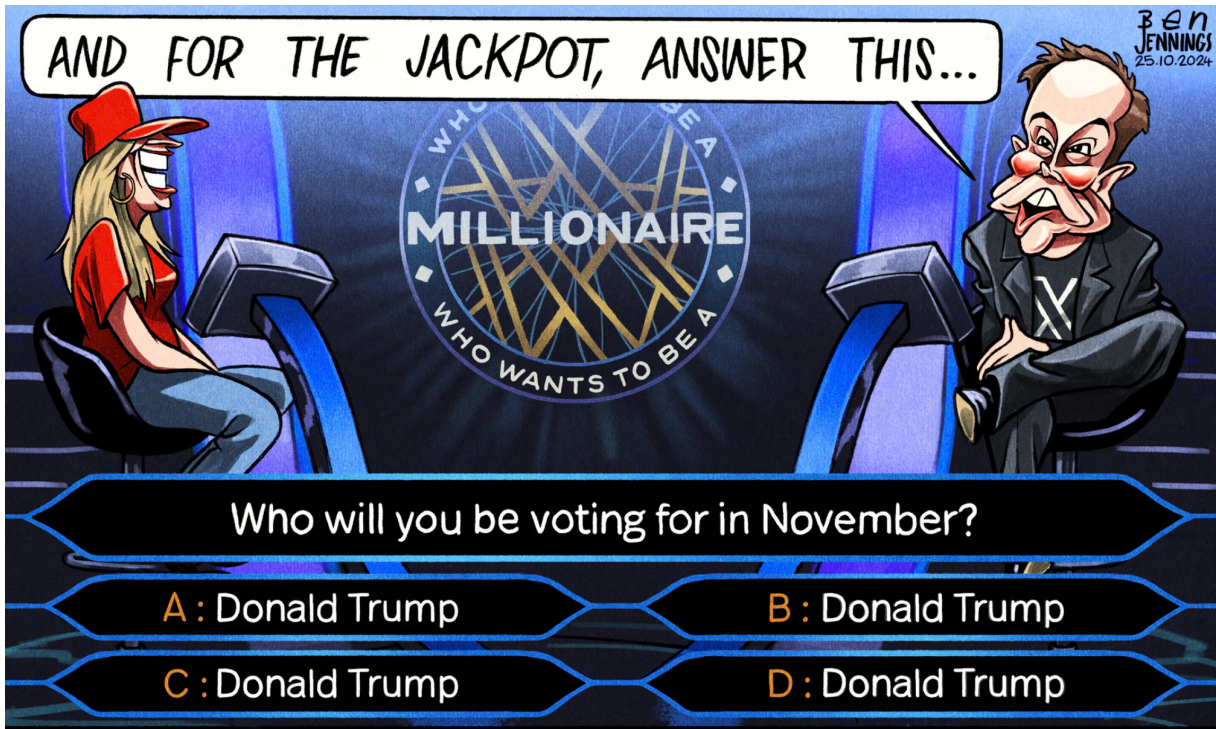


What's with Elon Musk and the US Presidential elections?

Document 1



Published in *The Guardian*

Document 2

False

Elon Musk @elonmusk

The goal all along has been to import as many illegal voters as possible

Speaker Mike Johnson @SpeakerJohnson · Jul 8

Why are Democrats so adamantly against ensuring only American citizens vote in our elections?

They want to turn illegal aliens into voters. We must pass the SAVE Act to prevent this.

5:17 PM · Jul 8, 2024 · 45.7M Views

48.6K Reposts 2,271 Quotes 219.6K Likes 3,740 Bookmarks

Misleading

Elon Musk @elonmusk

Jocelyn Michelle Benson, shame on you for blatantly lying to the public!

You only plan to remove the ineligible voters AFTER this election.

That necessarily means that there are far more people registered to vote than there eligible voters.

Jocelyn Benson @JocelynBenson · Oct 20

Let's be clear: @elonmusk is spreading dangerous disinformation.

Here are the facts:

There aren't more voters than citizens in Michigan. There are 7.2 million active

6:24 PM · Oct 20, 2024 · 27.7M Views

41.8K Reposts 1,232 Quotes 155.3K Likes 3,723 Bookmarks

TRUMP VANCE 2024

MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

TEXT PENNSYLVANIA TO 88022

Document 3

Elon Musk is Trump's biggest cheerleader. How could he affect election results?

The Guardian, October 18, 2024

[...] The billionaire CEO of Tesla and SpaceX has emerged as a unique influence on the campaign in ways that set him apart from even the most politically active billionaires and tech elite. He is all at once a vocal Trump surrogate, campaign mega-donor, informal policy adviser, media influencer and prolific source of online disinformation. At the same time, he is the world's richest man and the owner of one of the United States' most influential social networks, while also operating as a government defense contractor and wielding power over critical satellite communications infrastructure.

On Tuesday, Federal Election Commission filings showed that Musk donated \$75m in the last three months to his pro-Trump America Pac. The group has become a major ground game operative in battleground states, and Musk is its only donor.

Although the ultra-wealthy have always tried to influence politics, few people in US history have possessed the mix of immense resources and intent to use them to sway an election that Musk does. [...]

Musk's most visible Trump support takes place on X [...]. Musk's account has more than 200 million followers, and he has directed the company's engineers to improve visibility of his tweets – the algorithm now boosts Musk's own tweets beyond that of other users so that more people have to see them. [...]

As election day nears, Musk's feed has become a constant stream of praise for Trump and vitriol against Harris. A large percentage of his tweets amplify false or misleading information, and the people who Musk interacts with on the platform are often far-right accounts with a history of spreading misinformation. Musk's AI image generator, Grok, has also become one of the most prominent sources of political deepfakes that have permeated the election.

Musk has used X to help the Trump campaign, not only by echoing its talking points or amplifying the president, but by preventing the spread of material that could be harmful. Reporter Ken Klippenstein published a dossier of background information on vice-presidential candidate JD Vance in early October that was obtained through a hack of the Trump campaign allegedly by Iran. The New York Times reported last week that the campaign asked X to prevent links to the published dossier from spreading there, which X followed through on, blocking links to it and suspending Klippenstein's account. [...]

While Musk has rallied online for Trump, he has committed large amounts of money to financing on-the-ground operations and media campaigns for the former president. [...]

The money is not only flowing to get-out-the-vote initiatives, though. Musk has donated to the conservative group Building America's Future, which has set up cash awards for people who bring the group evidence of election fraud. [...]

Over the past several years Musk has faced investigations, fines and delays over public safety concerns on a range of his projects. The FAA alleged last month that Musk's SpaceX broke launch safety protocols, and over the years has grounded the company multiple times for violating regulations. [...] The EPA has also launched investigations into SpaceX for complaints that it is dumping unsafe amounts of wastewater into the ecosystem [...].

These constant fights with the full alphabet of regulatory agencies has coincided with Musk making numerous public statements in favor of deregulation, as well as calling for a full-scale audit of the federal government. That idea has found purchase with Trump, who announced in September that he would launch a Musk-led government efficiency commission that would audit federal agencies for places to cut. Musk wants to call it the Department of Government Efficiency, or Doge [...].

Musk's public rightward shift is an extension of years of allying himself with rightwing leaders around the world. In recent years, Musk has cozied up to nationalist and nativist politicians including Italy's Giorgia Meloni and Matteo Salvini, Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu and India's Narendra Modi. [...]

But Musk's promotion of far-right beliefs and support for Trump have also taken on a personal dimension that goes beyond business calculations. Musk's rhetoric on X has fixated on conservative grievances and he has amplified racist and antisemitic narratives through his tweets. Anti-immigration and anti-trans views have become a frequent talking point. [...]

Document 4

Elon Musk could be the biggest winner of a second Trump term

NBC News, November 5, 2024

Tech billionaire Elon Musk and his business empire stand to reap massive rewards if former President Donald Trump returns to the White House. But Musk, who has turned X into a pro-Trump echo chamber, will have unparalleled conflicts of interest if he becomes a government efficiency czar.

The potential benefits for Musk and his companies are wide-ranging: possibly touching regulatory issues like labor laws and environmental protections, lower tax rates and the chance for more government contracts for Musk's rocket company, SpaceX.

As measured in dollars, few people may have more at stake in Tuesday's presidential election than Musk, and in the past several months, Musk has acted accordingly, enthusiastically backing Trump's campaign through appearances and over \$118 million donated through his super PAC.

Musk, 53, could also play an influential role in a second Trump administration, as an adviser on spending cuts or in a more substantial way—which could be an ethical morass if he comes to wield power over government agencies that regulate his businesses.

Apart from ethical issues, Musk's commercial investments abroad—particularly in China—combined with his company's sensitive federal contracts for the U.S. military's space program raise serious questions about conflicts of interest that could jeopardize America's national security, according to current and former U.S. officials and experts.

Musk's electric vehicle company Tesla heavily relies on China, now seen by both political parties as the primary security threat and economic rival to the United States. Tesla depends on China as a production base and as a crucial market for its vehicles. During a visit to China earlier this year, Musk echoed Beijing's line on Taiwan, describing it as an “integral part” of China.

Unlike some tycoons or corporate chiefs, Musk has not shied away from weighing in on geopolitics even when it is at odds with U.S. foreign policy, advocating positions on the war in Ukraine that aligned with the Kremlin's stance. Musk has had telephone conversations with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to a source with knowledge of the matter, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal.

Some lawmakers who spoke to NBC News on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the conversations worry that Musk could try to push U.S. policy in a direction favorable to his financial interests. They are concerned that Musk could undercut America's goal of preventing China from gaining access to cutting-edge technology that can be used to build up its military and intelligence capabilities. [...]

Musk stands to intensify his companies' business with the government through his now deep connection with Trump, and potentially target rivals in the aerospace world, such as Boeing, through Trump's efficiency efforts. Musk has previously criticized Boeing, which has massive government contracts in partnership with other defense giants. [...]

Trump has given conflicting accounts about how Musk might fit into his administration, telling Fox News in an interview last month that he'd like Musk to be his “secretary of cost-cutting” but also “not in the Cabinet.” [...]

Rather than shy away from potential conflicts of interest, Musk has talked openly about his desire to see Trump directly help his businesses by slashing regulations. [...]

When it comes to taxes, Trump has been transparent about his desire to keep taxes low for corporations and wealthy individuals like Musk. [...]

There's more transparency, though, around how Musk stands to benefit from Trump's regulatory posture.

The 19 separate fights between Musk and the federal government have involved 12 different government entities and touched on a broad cross-section of everyday life: from a wildlife refuge in Texas near a SpaceX launch site to alleged racial harassment at a Tesla factory in California to Tesla's decision to market driver-assistance software as "full self-driving" even though it requires human supervision.

Separate from Musk's business empire, his America PAC has been entangled in a legal battle, with Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner over the super PAC's \$1 million daily prize giveaways. On Monday, a judge declined to halt the cash prizes.

Enforcement of federal laws and regulations generally falls to presidential appointees, and experts say it's not difficult to predict how Musk would fare under Trump's picks. [...]

Document 5

Elon Musk exerts deepening influence on Donald Trump's presidential transition

CNN, by Kaitlan Collins, November 10, 2024

Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago club has been brimming in the last 48 hours with two kinds of people: those angling for a job in the president-elect's incoming administration, and those trying to influence him into hiring their picks for the top spots.

But the one person who has loomed over it all and has exerted a great deal of influence is Elon Musk, according to multiple sources. The tech billionaire has been seen at the resort in Palm Beach, Florida, almost every day since Trump won the election last week, dining with him on the patio some evenings and hanging out with his family Sunday at the golf course.

Musk has been in the room when multiple world leaders have phoned Trump, and he's weighed in on staffing decisions, with the SpaceX and Tesla CEO even making clear his preference for certain roles.

In one instance, Musk was with Trump at Mar-a-Lago when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called to congratulate the president-elect the day after the election, according to a source briefed on the call. Trump put the call on speaker, and Zelensky thanked Musk for his help providing communications to Ukraine through the billionaire's Starlink internet service.

On Sunday, Musk waded into the GOP Senate leadership fight, endorsing Sen. Rick Scott after the Florida Republican swiftly backed Trump's demand that anyone vying to be leader support recess appointments for his nominees — a way for presidents to attempt to bypass Congress that Senate Democrats could essentially block.

Musk is not only close to Trump but also with his transition co-chair, Howard Lutnick — the billionaire CEO of financial services firm Cantor Fitzgerald who is leading the personnel side of the transition. [...]

While Musk himself is not formally expected to take a position in Trump's administration, he doesn't really need to, one source said, noting the X owner is having just as much influence from the outside.

While Trump and Musk had publicly pitched the latter leading an efficiency commission to slash spending inside the federal government, CNN reported Thursday that a source familiar with the conversations around Musk said it seemed unlikely he would even want a full-time government position, given what that would mean for his role in the companies he helms.

Instead, it seemed more plausible that Musk would be appointed to a blue-ribbon committee, where he would still have enormous access but would not be subject to government ethics rules, which would require him to divest or put assets in a blind trust to avoid conflicts of interest. [...]