

# [***Musk Praises Tim Scott s Presidential Campaign Message, Prompting Speculation: Who Will He Back?***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:688W-1BP1-DXVP-50WG-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 511 words

**Byline:** Ty Roush, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Musk previously supported Democratic presidential candidates, including Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden.

**Body**

**Topline**

Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) received a message of support from Twitter CEO Elon Musk after ScottannouncedFriday he would run for president, adding to speculation of which Republican candidate Musk who previously voted for Democratic candidates would support in next year s presidential election.

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Elon Musk shared a promotional video of Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.) Friday.

Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

Musktweeteda promotional video for Scott Friday, hours after Scott filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission, though the video does not directly reference Scott s presidential campaign.

Scottrespondedto Musk, indicating he would save you a seat for anevent announcinghis campaign in North Charleston, South Carolina, on Monday.

Musk who beganaligninghimself with Republicans in recent years indicatedlast November he might support Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.), if DeSantis decided to run for president.

Former President Donald Trump who took partial credit for generating Musk s wealth criticizedMusk in a series of Truth Social posts last year, suggesting Musk would be worthless without his help, while Muskrespondedby suggesting Trump hang up his hate and sail into the sunset.

Vivek Ramaswamy, whoannouncedhis candidacy for the Republican nomination in February, wascriticizedby Musk for being wrong on many levels after RamaswamysaidMusk was doubling down with the Chinese government.

Larry Elder a conservative talk show host suggestedAmericans would prefer shooting Musk over Adolph Hitler or Mao Zedong if given two bullets and a gun, though Muskrepliedthey would miss both times.

**Crucial Quote**

Musktweetedlast year that while he previously voted Democrat, they have become the party of division and hate, so I can no longer support them and will vote Republican.

**Forbes Valuation**

Musk is the second-richest person in the world with a net worth of $184.7 billion,accordingto our estimates.

**Key Background**

Musk, who oncesaidhe prefers to stay out of ***politics***, has rallied support for Republicans since taking control of Twitter last year. Musk tweeted in November he would recommend voting for a Republican Congress, given that the Presidency is Democratic. In prior presidential elections, Muskindicatedhe reluctantly voted for then-presidential candidate Joe Biden and donated to fund Hillary Clinton s 2016 campaign,suggestingTrump doesn t have the character that reflects well on the United States. Musk also donated to Barack Obama s 2008 presidential campaign and his re-election bid in 2012. He has become more vocal about controversial issues in recent years, and said he moved to Texas from California in 2020 months after hecalledgovernment-imposed Covid-19 restrictions fascist. Musk has also denounced other Democrats on Twitter, including Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), who hecalled Senator Karen.

**Further Reading**

GOP Sen. Tim Scott Announces Presidential Run Trump s Latest Challenger(**Forbes**)

Elon Musk s Political Shift: How The Billion Moved From Backing Obama To Endorsing DeSantis(**Forbes**)

**Load-Date:** May 21, 2023

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