

What We Know About Elon Musk's 'Department Of Government Efficiency' — As Musk Pushes Tax Changes

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TOPLINE The world's richest man Elon Musk's role in the upcoming Trump administration is growing clearer as president-elect Donald Trump [tapped](#) him to lead the "Department Of Government Efficiency," and, though exactly what the commission will do is still not exactly known, social media posts and reports have hinted at what government functions will be the first targets of the streamlining efforts.



Elon Musk attends a House Republicans meeting Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

KEY FACTS

Musk, alongside [fellow billionaire](#) and former GOP presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, will lead the "DOGE" bureau, Trump announced last Wednesday, with the name an apparent nod to the "doge" dog meme often referenced by Musk.

Despite its name, the billionaire-led commission is not proposed as an official government agency, but rather an advisory board which will “provide advice and guidance from outside of Government,” wrote Trump, who set forth the department’s primary objectives are to “dismantle Government Bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures and restructure Federal Agencies.”

Trump said the commission will wrap by July 4, 2026, though Musk [posted](#) last Wednesday on his X social media platform he expects to be “done much faster.”

Details are scant on how exactly DOGE will operate, and it’s unclear how much funding the commission itself would receive, but recent social media posts and campaign trail fodder provide some insight.

Ramaswamy [called](#) last Wednesday for a “massive downsizing,” while Musk [backed](#) a roughly 75% reduction in the amount of U.S. federal agencies,” though any widesweeping funding changes would need to get approval from Congress.

The department’s official X account went live last Wednesday with the aptly named @DOGE handle. “Working overtime to ensure your tax dollars will be spent wisely!,” read the account’s first ever [post](#).

In an appearance last week on the “Joe Rogan Experience” [podcast](#), Musk said he hopes to “curtail [government] agencies to be much smaller” and to only “stick to what Congress authorized,” also calling for massive severance packages for government employees impacted by a potential purge (“a couple years of pay”) and predicting “America’s toast” if the government doesn’t reduce spending.

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NEWS PEG

Musk and Ramaswamy have discussed making a smartphone app for Americans to file taxes for free online, the Washington Post [reported](#) Tuesday, citing anonymous sources. Musk has often [lobbed](#) at the Internal Revenue Service, [calling](#) Tuesday to “simplify the tax code.”

CRUCIAL QUOTE

“A reasonable formula to fix the U.S. government: Milei-style cuts, on steroids,” Ramaswamy [posted](#) Monday, referencing Argentinian President Javier Milei, the Musk ally who has cut his country's annual spending by a [reported](#) 32% since taking power last year.

DOGE CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS

In an X post last week, the commission requested individuals to apply to join the group. “We need super high-IQ small-government revolutionaries willing to work 80+ hours per week on unglamorous cost-cutting,” the department [said](#), calling for interested applicants to send their resumes directly to DOGE via direct message on X.

WHERE COULD DOGE CUTS BE MADE?

Musk intends to pare down the Federal Trade Commission, Internal Revenue Service, Justice Department and Securities and Exchange Commission, [reported](#) the Wall Street Journal, citing two unnamed sources who have discussed the plans with Musk. The centibillionaire also [endorsed](#) last week a New York Post [analysis](#) story identifying several areas to potentially curb spending, ranging from big-ticket items like billions of dollars annually [spent](#) on maintaining unused government government to more dubious, smaller expenses like a \$20,600 disbursement in 2022 [toward](#) a diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility exhibit in Ecuador.

SURPRISING FACT

Musk [said](#) last month he could identify “at least \$2 trillion” in cuts from the federal government’s \$6.75 trillion budget. But [Scott Bessent](#), the odds-on favorite to land the top economic role of Treasury secretary in Trump’s cabinet, expressed skepticism about that proclamation, [telling](#) Forbes last week he’s “not sure how they’ve gotten to that number,” but “look at the way [Musk]

runs his companies. He runs them pretty well.”

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WHAT DOES DOGE MEAN FOR TESLA?

As an outside advisor to the federal government, Musk [won't](#) need to divest any investments or step down from any positions at private companies. That means Musk can proceed as normal as the chief executive officer and largest individual shareholder of the \$1 trillion electric vehicle firm Tesla, the [\\$210 billion](#) aerospace and communications firm SpaceX and the [\\$40 billion](#) generative artificial intelligence startup xAI. “While Musk will now have another role to balance along with his myriad of other roles at Tesla/SpaceX/xAI, we believe the major benefits for Musk and Tesla far outweigh any negatives,” wrote Wedbush analyst Dan Ives in a note to clients last week. Shares of Tesla rose are up more than 30% since the election. Musk’s reported targeting of the FTC, IRS, DoJ and SEC with his cost-cutting commission brings into question [potential](#) conflicts of interest, as those are the primary agencies which would regulate and probe Musk’s companies.

CHIEF CRITIC

“The Office of Government Efficiency is off to a great start with split leadership: two people to do the work of one person. Yeah, this seems REALLY efficient,” Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., wrote in a [post](#) to X last week, receiving more than 150,000 likes.

TANGENT

Dogecoin, the meme cryptocurrency token famously touted by Musk, is up about 10% since Trump announced the DOGE commission. Part of a broader crypto rally, Dogecoin is up more than 100% since election night, outstripping the 35% gain of bitcoin, by far the most valuable digital asset. Dogecoin is the sixth most valuable cryptocurrency in the world, with a market capitalization of \$57 billion, more than those of public companies Delta Airlines, Ford or Kraft Heinz. "The funniest name is DOGE," Musk quipped to Rogan when talking about the new commission

