Election 2024

**RNC Updates** 

What if Biden Drops Out?

Trump Picks Vance as VP

Newsletter

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our Subscriber Agreement and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com.

https://www.wsj.com/politics/elections/elon-musk-has-said-he-is-committing-around-45-million-a-month-to-a-new-pro-trump-super-pac-dda53823

EXCLUSIVE ELECTIONS Follow

## Elon Musk Has Said He Is Committing Around \$45 Million a Month to a New **Pro-Trump Super PAC**

Other backers of America PAC include Palantir Technologies co-founder Joe Lonsdale and the Winkleyoss twins

By Dana Mattioli Follow, Emily Glazer Follow and Khadeeja Safdar Follow Updated July 16, 2024 10:44 am ET



Elon Musk is currently the world's richest person, with an estimated fortune exceeding \$250 billion. PHOTO: DAVID SWANSON/REUTERS

Elon Musk has said he plans to commit around \$45 million a month to a new super political-action committee backing former President Donald Trump's presidential run, according to people familiar with the matter.

Other backers of the group, called America PAC, include Palantir Technologies co-founder Joe Lonsdale, the Winklevoss twins, former U.S. Ambassador to Canada Kelly Craft and her husband, Joe Craft, who is chief executive of coal producer Alliance Resource Partners.

Formed in June, America PAC is focused on registering voters and persuading constituents to vote early and request mail-in ballots in swing states, according to one of the people. The coalition assessed that the Democrats have historically had very robust "get out the vote" campaigns and took note of the amounts of money that the Biden camp has dedicated to what are called on-the-ground efforts in swing states. America PAC will try to counter that.

After this article published, Musk on X posted a humorous meme responding to it with the caption "FAKE GNUS." Subsequently, he wrote "Yeah" in response to a post that said: "Elon Musk went from being an Obama voter to pledging \$180 million to elect DJT. The woke left really f\*cked up. Badly."

Musk is currently the world's richest person, with an estimated fortune exceeding \$250 billion. The amount that he has said he plans to commit to America PAC is an extraordinary sum.

While it can be difficult to trace the full scope of some political giving, the largest known donation of the 2024 election so far is \$50 million given recently by the great-grandson of banker Thomas Mellon to a super PAC supporting Trump.

America PAC has hired hundreds of employees for its efforts, and has been registering voters, having conversations with constituents in swing states and urging voters to request mail-in ballots, some of the people familiar with the matter said.

According to a filing made on Monday, America PAC had \$8.75 million in contributions for the three-month period ending on June 30. Musk had indicated that he planned to start his donations in July, one of the people said.

In addition to Lonsdale, the Winklevosses and the Crafts, the filing listed a number of other donors to America PAC, including several with close connections to Musk.

Bloomberg News earlier said that Musk has donated to America PAC. The scale of his planned commitment hasn't been reported.

Musk in March tweeted that he didn't intend to donate to either Trump or President Biden's campaigns. But the billionaire Tesla CEO has gotten closer to the former president in recent months.

On Saturday, Musk formally endorsed Trump for president after a shooter attempted to assassinate the former president at a Pennsylvania rally. "I fully

endorse President Trump and hope for his rapid recovery," Musk said on X. In a subsequent post he said, "Last time America had a candidate this tough was Theodore Roosevelt."

The Wall Street Journal reported in May that Musk and Trump had been talking frequently in recent months and were developing a friendly rapport, and that Musk was helping organize a data-driven project to prevent voter fraud that Trump was briefed on. The article said the two men had also discussed a possible advisory role for Musk in a potential second Trump administration, something Musk later denied.

—*Jim Oberman contributed to this article.* 

Write to Dana Mattioli at dana.mattioli@wsj.com, Emily Glazer at Emily.Glazer@wsj.com and Khadeeja Safdar at khadeeja.safdar@wsj.com

## **Corrections & Amplifications**

Backers of the pro-Trump America PAC took note of money that President Biden's camp has dedicated to so-called on-the-ground efforts in swing states. An earlier version of this article incorrectly said it was the Biden administration involved in those efforts. (Corrected on July 15)

Appeared in the July 16, 2024, print edition as 'Musk Sets Donations For New Super PAC'.

## **Videos**