

Elon Musk's plot to asset-strip American government

Bitter Dems move to impeach Trump AGAIN as they erupt into furious shouting match over

Elon Musk subpoena

Democrats could be heard screaming as House Republicans shut down their request

- Israel Salas-Rodriguez
- Carsen Holaday
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- IRATE Democrats have moved to impeach President Donald Trump again just two weeks into his second term after a shouting match erupted in a government hearing on Wednesday morning.

Lawmakers engaged in a fiery argument over [Elon Musk's](#) role in the new administration and seethed the unelected billionaire should be subpoenaed before threatening to come for [Trump](#) next.



Democrat Representative Melanie Stansbury yelling during Wednesday's hearingCredit: C-Span



Texas Rep. Al Green saying he filed impeachment articles against TrumpCredit: C-Span



Chairman James Comer quickly fired back at Democratic Congressman Gerry ConnollyCredit:

C-Span

On Wednesday afternoon, Democratic Representative Al Green of Texas said he filed new impeachment articles against Trump over the alleged threat of "ethnic cleansing in Gaza."

"The movement to impeach the president has begun," Green said on the US House floor.

"I rise to announce that I will bring Articles of Impeachment against the president for dastardly deeds proposed and dastardly deeds done."

Green's move comes after Trump said at a news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday that the US wants to ["take over" the Gaza Strip](#).

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Donald Trump gives team orders to 'obliterate' Iran if regime assassinates him

The Texas Democrat said he "laid the foundation for impeachment" for Trump before and will be doing it again.

Green was one of the lawmakers who brought on Trump's first impeachment in 2017.

Just before Green's announcement on Wednesday, [Musk's](#) work as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency and the axing and defunding of several federal agencies ignited a war between [Democrat](#) and [Republican](#) lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

During a hearing on government efficiency, the Democrats moved to subpoena Musk to get answers about his work as the head of DOGE.



GAZA SHOCK

Trump orders US TAKEOVER of Gaza to turn strip into 'Middle East

Riviera'



DON'S WRATH

Donald Trump gives team orders to 'obliterate' Iran if regime

assassinates him



After Chairman James Comer opened the hearing with a vow to identify fraud and abuse in the federal government, Congressman Gerry Connolly introduced the motion and blasted Musk.

Connolly said Musk and Trump “are using a wrecking ball to systematically dismember our government piece by piece.”

Trump vows to 'take over Gaza Strip' & 'level it' before redeveloping as Netanyahu says Don's plan will 'change history'

"Who is this unelected billionaire that he can attempt to dismantle federal agencies, fire people, transfer them, offer them early retirement, and have sweeping changes to agencies without any congressional review, oversight, or concurrence?" he added.

Connolly is referencing Musk's recent [buyout scheme](#) offering federal employees pay until September if they quit their jobs before the end of their month in an attempt at [downsizing the federal workforce](#).

The Congressman called Musk as a witness "given his providence and his importance."

Comer immediately fired back that the motion was "not debatable."

Chaos quickly erupted as Republicans scrambled to table the motion.

Democrat Representative Melanie Stansbury yelled it was "outrageous" for the motion to not even be entertained.

"Let's have order in this country!" Stansbury cried.

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"Mr. Elon Musk is out of order in dismantling this country."

After lawmakers shouted back and forth at each other, Republicans blocked the motion that would've forced Musk to testify before Congress.



Connolly introduced the subpoena motion to Republicans on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform
Credit: C-SPAN



President Donald Trump and Elon Musk at SpaceX's test launch from Starbase in Boca Chica,

Texas on November 19, 2024 Credit: AP

Represented by Public Citizen Litigation Group and State Democracy Defenders Fund, the Alliance for Retired Americans, the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), and the the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) filed [suit](#) today against the Department of the Treasury for sharing confidential data with the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), run by Elon Musk.

The Department of Treasury maintains the sensitive personal and financial information of millions of Americans, and federal laws protect such data from improper disclosure and misuse, including by barring disclosure to individuals who lack a lawful and legitimate need for it.

Instead of protecting the private information of Americans as required by law, the complaint explains, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent took punitive measures against officials who sought to protect that information from improper access and allowed DOGE full access to the data.

“The scale of the intrusion into individuals’ privacy is massive and unprecedented,” the complaint states, adding “People who must share information with the federal government should not be forced to share information with Elon Musk or his ‘DOGE.’ And federal law says they do not have to.” The Plaintiffs demand an immediate end to the “systematic, continuous, and ongoing violation of federal laws that protect the privacy of personal information contained in federal records.”

“We are outraged and alarmed that the Trump Administration has allowed so-called DOGE staff to violate the law and access millions of older Americans’ sensitive personal and financial data,” said **Richard Fiesta, executive director of the Alliance for Retired Americans**, a grassroots advocacy organization with 4.4 million members nationwide. “Seniors are already the most vulnerable Americans to fraud and scams, with FBI data showing losses of \$3.4 billion in 2023 alone. We urge the court to quickly act to stop this unlawful theft of our data.”

“AFGE is proud to join our partners today in standing up for the privacy rights of American citizens – including those we represent working for the federal government,” said **AFGE National President Everett Kelley**. “It is disgraceful that the

Trump administration has allowed unelected billionaires and their lackeys unfettered access to the personal and financial information of Americans. Together, we can stop this violation of American citizens' privacy."

"It's deeply alarming that unelected billionaires have seized control of the private data of millions of Americans, including thousands of SEIU members who perform essential services for the federal government," said **SEIU International President April Verrett**. "As a candidate, Donald Trump claimed to stand for the working class, but as president, he is putting billionaires like Elon Musk ahead of working people. He is creating chaos and uncertainty, trying to distract us from his efforts to cut back the care and services we all count on to pay for more tax breaks for billionaires. We've beaten back Trump's attacks on working people before, and we are ready to do it again."

The complaint is available [here](#).

Elon Musk's plot to asset-strip American government

Even the radical architects of Project 2025 didn't propose what Elon Musk is doing to US democracy.

By Jill Filipovic

As Donald Trump enters his Mad King era and starts a trade war that seems primed to crater the global economy, he has handed the keys to the kingdom to the richest man on Earth: a man unelected, unconfirmed by Congress and unaccountable to the electorate.

Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and owner of X, was chosen by Trump to lead the newly created Department of Government Efficiency – Doge, like the internet meme about a dog, the kind of very-online joke that tickles the tastes of Musk's pubertal fans. And while Musk's appointment does seem like a put-on, it hasn't been especially funny. Trump created Doge via executive order. Government agencies are supposed to be created by acts of Congress, but Trump got around that by renaming the existing federal Digital Service "Doge", and keeping it within the executive office. The department is now digging into various nooks and crannies of the federal bureaucracy and rapidly dismantling them.

The Trump administration's strategy has been to "flood the zone" with so many actions that it's hard to keep up, let alone respond. But what Americans are seeing now is unprecedented: the systematic dismembering of its government. And it's coming at the

hands of a man who cannot legally run for president, and who is acting as if he's drunk on his own grandiosity.

Musk seems to have brought in his own lackeys to staff up Doge, and it's unclear who most of them are, given that they are not long-standing federal employees (those people are being put on leave, encouraged to quit or have been pushed out). Last November, Musk tweeted that he was seeking "super high-IQ small-government revolutionaries willing to work 80+ hours per week" for Doge. Wired has since found a few of the hires, and they're men in their early 20s with no government experience. They are not public servants. They do not seem to be adhering to the same ethical and transparency requirements as other federal employees, and given their position underneath the executive umbrella the Trump administration may argue they don't have to. It's unclear if they've all been subject to security screenings. And they have access to vast amounts of federal government data and information, some of it classified.

So far, the destruction has been swift and stunning. Musk's aides took over the Office of Personnel Management, locked many of the agency's actual employees out of computer systems and apparently gained access to the private information of the federal workforce, according to Reuters. They got into the Treasury department, accessing the system the federal government uses to make trillions of dollars in payments every year – everything from government contractor salaries to grandma's Social Security payment. When a Treasury official tried to stand up to them, he was put on leave and then retired. Musk took to X to boast about shutting down payments to Lutheran Family Services, a group that provides, among other things, adoption aid and health services for the homeless.

Musk's team also burrowed into Usaid, the country's international aid and development organisation that funds programmes including famine relief and HIV treatment. Musk tweeted that Usaid is "a criminal organisation" and that it's "time for it to die". When officials denied Musk's aides access into restricted areas and to classified documents, the officials were put on administrative leave. Thousands of aid workers around the globe were terminated or saw their employment paused. The agency's website disappeared.

It's hard to overstate how important Usaid has been. Just one programme, PEPFAR, the agency's HIV/Aids relief programme started by George W Bush, is credited with saving the lives of millions of people. Usaid has long been a symbol of American goodness: of

the US's knowledge that with its extraordinary good fortune comes an obligation to care for others.

It is also a project of self-interest: an America that is seen as good is one that stands stronger against malign opponents competing for power globally. When people the world over see that shipments of food and medical supplies are stamped with Usaid, the US enjoys greater global influence and national security as a result.

Project 2025, the right-wing plan designed for the Trump administration in order to radically reshape American government, devoted a chapter to Usaid, proposing scaling back its funding and enforcing an ideological overhaul that stripped out mentions of gender equality and reproductive rights – even the word “gender” itself. Project 2025 targeted organisations providing reproductive healthcare. This plan would have been disastrous, and it would have cost lives. But even the radical architects of Project 2025 didn't propose what Musk is doing.

Republicans who know this is calamitous are nevertheless standing idly by, cowed by Trump and interested in self-preservation over national survival. Democrats seem to have come up with new and creative ways to remove their spines from their bodies; watching them feels akin to pulling the alarm for an out-of-control blaze only to see the firefighters sitting around the station remarking that someone should do something about this terrible event.

What Musk is doing, though, can only be done if our elected leaders let him. Congress created Usaid. One unelected man does not have the authority to dismantle it. But he will be able to destroy it if Congress stands idly by – and if the public fails to stand up and say: for America to be great, America needs to be good.

[See more: [Trump's America is a gangster's paradise](#)]

