# Elon Musk plans to step back from government role amid political and personal turmoil



Elon Musk, the world's richest person and CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, announced last Tuesday that he will be “significantly” stepping back from his government role next month, a move that has generated considerable discussion and speculation among Washington insiders and the wider public. Musk, 53, who has recently faced a series of professional and personal challenges, appears to be retreating from his position as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) amid reports of contentious relationships within the White House and declining business performance.

Musk’s tenure at DOGE has been marked by clashes with multiple cabinet members, including heated arguments with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent that required aides to intercede. Other senior officials, such as Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, and Trade Adviser Peter Navarro, have reportedly criticised Musk's approach, sometimes branding him a "liar" in meetings over policy disputes. Sources indicate that Musk's attempts at humour and attempts to control the conversation have largely failed to endear him to his colleagues.

Alongside political troubles, Tesla—the cornerstone of Musk’s immense wealth and reputation—has experienced a downturn. The electric carmaker reported a 20 per cent drop in vehicle sales in the first quarter compared to the same period last year, with profits plunging by 71 per cent. Citing the impact of Musk’s political divisiveness on the business, he publicly pledged to refocus his attention on Tesla during a recent investor meeting, where he candidly remarked, “It’s never a dull moment these days.”

Parallel to this professional turbulence, details have emerged about Musk’s private life that further complicate his public image. According to reports in the Daily Mail, Musk is known to have fathered at least 14 children with four different women, many conceived via in vitro fertilisation (IVF), a figure insiders suggest may understate the full number of his offspring. His family life is characterised by complexity and secrecy, including four children with writer Justine Wilson, three with Canadian singer Grimes (Claire Boucher), and four with Shivon Zilis, a senior executive at his neurotechnology firm Neuralink.

The situation became more complicated recently with New York-based conservative writer and influencer Ashley St Clair publicly revealing on social media that she had secretly given birth to Musk’s child, a boy named Romulus, five months prior. After legal proceedings, a court-ordered paternity test determined there was a 99.9999 per cent probability that Musk is the father. St Clair claims that Musk has been minimally involved in the child’s life and has reduced financial support since the announcement of his paternity.

St Clair has offered detailed insights into Musk’s approach to procreation, depicting it as a deliberate and somewhat clinical process aimed at countering what Musk perceives as an impending global “apocalypse” caused by population decline. Musk allegedly communicates with women about the importance of producing many offspring, encouraging the use of surrogate mothers and even discussing the ideal method of delivery to maximise a child's cerebral development. St Clair described how Musk wished for a "legion" of children to help ensure humanity's survival, indicating plans to use surrogates to rapidly expand the number of offspring.

Within this context, Musk’s suggestion that St Clair have their baby by caesarean to supposedly maximise skull and brain size reflects his intense focus on intellectual potency in his progeny. He has also reportedly offered financial incentives, including £11.3 million towards St Clair’s home and her living expenses, alongside monthly payments until their child reaches adulthood.

Musk’s efforts to maintain discretion involve arrangements with non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and the use of aides like Jared Birchall, a former banker responsible for Musk’s family affairs. Birchall reportedly warns women about legal complications and emphasises confidentiality to protect Musk, described as the "biggest lightning rod on the planet." Nonetheless, these agreements have been criticised for their asymmetry; Musk is not bound to secrecy about these matters, whereas the women are.

Further reports reveal Musk’s outreach to other women via social media platforms, including cryptocurrency commentator Tiffany Fong, who declined Musk’s advances. Additionally, he confirmed a 2023 encounter where Japanese officials solicited his sperm donation for a "high-profile woman," though Musk declined to name her. This aligns with previous reports of Musk offering sperm donations to acquaintances and friends, reinforcing the notion that his family-building ambitions extend beyond conventional relationships.

At the centre of Musk’s complex family dynamics is a compound in Austin, Texas, featuring multiple luxurious homes purchased for £27 million. This compound houses Shivon Zilis and her four children with Musk, while Grimes and her three children reportedly have resisted moving there. In February, Grimes publicly accused Musk of neglecting their child’s medical emergency, highlighting strains in their relationship. Musk has also encouraged St Clair to join the compound and become part of what he refers to as his “kid legion.”

Musk’s personal revelations coincide with his recent political troubles and business challenges. Once hailed for bringing “panache” to Republican circles and maintaining a unique presence in the White House, his standing has shifted towards that of a political liability, with some observers describing him as “dead weight” around the administration. His public support for controversial figures and parties, including the jailed British activist Tommy Robinson and Germany’s far-right AfD party, has contributed to perceptions of divisiveness.

Despite the considerable financial resources at his disposal, estimated at a net worth of £277 billion, Musk faces a multifaceted decline in influence and reputation across his personal, corporate, and political spheres. The decision to step back from his government role appears to be part of a broader recalibration amid these pressures, though it remains to be seen how Musk will navigate the challenges ahead.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-stepping-back-doge-tesla-2025-4> - This article corroborates Elon Musk's decision to step back from his role in the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), citing his plans to focus more on Tesla. The article also mentions the impact of his role on Tesla's performance.
* <https://fortune.com/article/elon-musk-special-government-employee-doge-trump-countdown/> - This report supports Musk's plan to reduce his involvement with DOGE, indicating he will continue spending a day or two per week on government tasks for the remainder of Trump's term.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/elon-musk-doge-tesla-tsla-stock-may-2025/> - CBS News provides details on Musk's role in DOGE and its impact on Tesla, including the significant reduction in his time allocation to DOGE starting in May.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This could be the source for general information about Elon Musk's roles and challenges, though specific details about the article's content are not provided.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10959945/Elon-Musk-secretly-fathered-14-children-women.html> - This Daily Mail article likely discusses Elon Musk's personal life, including his children and family dynamics, which aligns with the complex family situation described.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elon_Musk> - Elon Musk's Wikipedia page provides a comprehensive overview of his personal and professional life, including his roles at Tesla, SpaceX, and other ventures, which can support various claims about his career and family.
* <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14650773/elon-musk-secret-plan-father-5000-children-revealed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data