The Musk Case File for Texas

Christopher Armitage, The Existentialist Republic. Nov. 5, 2026.

Letter to Texas officials

To the incoming statewide officers of Texas, the district attorneys of Texas, the Democratic members of the 90th Legislature and their staffs, and the Texas Democratic Party and the Democratic county parties:

We are sending you a case file on Elon Musk and his companies in Texas: the record of what they have done here, and the Texas criminal and civil laws that reach it.

Musk has lived in Texas since 2020, and his companies are based here. Tesla has been a Texas corporation since June 2024 with their headquarters in Austin, SpaceX moved their incorporation to Texas in February 2024 and launches Starship from Starbase, X Corp. has their headquarters in Bastrop, and Neuralink built their campus in Del Valle.

When the current federal administration took office in January 2025, the Democratic staff of the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations counted at least 65 federal actions pending against Musk's companies. Since then the federal government has closed or settled matters with an estimated $196 million in exposure and collected $1.5 million, and the administration removed officials at the agencies handling several of the rest.

A president can pardon only federal crimes, and federal appointees can drop only federal cases. A Texas prosecution and a judgment won by the Texas Attorney General are beyond both powers.

We ask for these first steps, and the legal authority for each one is set out under What Texas can do:

1. The Attorney General-elect: open investigations of Tesla's Autopilot and Full Self-Driving marketing and Tesla's range estimates under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act, naming Musk for the statements he made himself, of Grok's sexual images under the 2025 deepfake and AI laws, and of Grok's face scans under the biometric privacy law that produced the $1.4 billion Meta settlement.
2. The Attorney General-elect: examine the Musk Foundation and The Foundation, the two Austin charities that share a post office box, under the office's charitable-trust authority.
3. The Governor-elect: release the governor's office communications with Musk and his companies that no law makes confidential, and review the repayment terms of the state's grants for Terafab and SpaceX's Gigabay facility.

4. The Comptroller-elect: keep Starlink's up-front broadband payments frozen until the Legislature's audit is complete, and audit Terafab's compliance reports under the law that lets the office collect a penalty of up to the full $1.66 billion tax benefit.
5. The Lieutenant Governor-elect: when the Senate organizes on Jan. 12, 2027, name a Senate committee with subpoena power to examine the Starlink payment change and the Terafab tax break, and refer the bills in this file to committee in the first weeks of the session.
6. The Land Commissioner-elect: review the General Land Office's December 2025 certification of Starbase's beach access plan, and enforce the Open Beaches Act at Boca Chica Beach.
7. Members of the Legislature: file bills amending the 2025 laws listed in this file, which members can prefile starting Nov. 9, 2026, and create a general investigating committee to examine the state benefits Musk's companies received and the Abbott-Musk communications.
8. Members of the Legislature, before Nov. 24, 2026: ask the state's public pension systems whether they sold Twitter shares between May 13, 2022 and Oct. 4, 2022 and have filed claims in the Twitter shareholder case.
9. The Cameron County District Attorney: review the May 15, 2026 death at SpaceX's Starfactory, and with the Bastrop County District Attorney, review Grok's sexual images and Musk's role in them under Penal Code 21.165 and 43.235.
10. The Travis County District Attorney: review Musk's redirection of 12,000 Nvidia processors Tesla had ordered to his private companies, and Tesla's spending on the glass building planned for him near Austin, under the misapplication of fiduciary property statute, and review the false-statement allegations at Tesla's Austin factory under the Water Code.
11. District attorneys, before May 13, 2027: review Musk's May 2022 Twitter posts, which a federal jury found misleading, under the fraud section of the Texas Securities Act, and before April 4, 2027, his Twitter share purchases while his stake was undisclosed.

The deadlines under What Texas can do begin on Nov. 15, 2026.

Christopher Armitage Founder and publisher, The Existentialist Republic

The short version

Each of the 20 matters below has an office in Texas with the power to act on it, and the earliest deadline in this file falls on Nov. 15, 2026. On Nov. 3, 2026, Democrats won every statewide executive office on the ballot, and the Associated Press had called 76 of the 150 Texas House seats for Democrats by the afternoon of Nov. 4, 2026, a majority, with 13 seats uncalled. Republicans hold the Senate 19 to 12.

Matter	The facts	Who in Texas can act	First step
Tesla's Autopilot and Full Self-Driving marketing	California's Department of Motor Vehicles ruled the names misleading in December 2025, and a federal jury in Miami held Tesla liable for an Autopilot death	Attorney General	A civil investigative demand under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act
Tesla's robotaxis	1,080 Tesla vehicles authorized to drive without a driver in Texas, and 22 robotaxi incident reports filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration by mid-August 2026	Legislature; Texas Department of Motor Vehicles	Require crash and remote-operation reports, and review Tesla's authorization
Sexual images made by Grok, the chatbot on X	An estimated 3 million sexualized images in 11 days, about 23,000 of them appearing to depict children, and Attorney General Ken Paxton did not publicly respond to 43 legislators who asked him to investigate	Attorney General; district attorneys in Bastrop and Cameron counties	An investigation under the 2025 deepfake and AI laws
Closures of Boca Chica Beach and State Highway 4	Starbase, the city SpaceX petitioned to create around their launch site, may close the beach and	Texas Space Commission; General Land Office; Legislature	Revoke or modify Order 2025-01, review the land office's certification of the beach access

Matter	The facts	Who in Texas can act	First step
	the highway with no state cap on hours		plan, and repeal the 2025 closure power
A worker's death at SpaceX's Starfactory	Jose Luis Bautista, a 25-year-old contract worker, died there on May 15, 2026, and the Texas Observer found Starbase's injury rate more than five times the national average for comparable facilities	Cameron County District Attorney	A criminal negligence review before evidence goes stale
Pollution	Texas settled four unpermitted wastewater discharges at SpaceX's launch site for $3,750, tests a drainage district commissioned found traces of hexavalent chromium and arsenic, which Tesla's permit for the Robstown refinery does not allow Tesla to discharge, and a Tesla compliance staffer wrote in 2024 that Tesla repeatedly asked them to lie to the government	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; county attorneys; Travis County District Attorney	A compliance review, suits under the Water Code, and a false-statement review under Water Code 7.149
Tesla's Travis County rebate deal	The county withheld 9% of Tesla's rebates for 2020 to 2022, and Tesla's reports for	Travis County Commissioners Court	Finish the review

Matter	The facts	Who in Texas can act	First step
	2023 through 2025 are still under review		
Starlink and the state's broadband money	The state's broadband office changed the payment schedule for satellite providers after a request from Gov. Greg Abbott's office to compare payment structures, and the state froze all broadband payments on Aug. 11, 2026	Comptroller; Legislature	Keep the payments frozen and investigate the change
Terafab, the chip complex Musk's companies plan in Grimes County	A $1.66 billion school-tax break and a $30 million state grant, and SpaceX is suing to block release of the county's Terafab records	Governor; Attorney General	Review the grant's repayment terms, and defend the ruling that most of the records must be released
Abbott's communications with Musk	A state judge ordered Abbott on Oct. 26, 2026 to let Gina Hinojosa, his opponent in the governor's race, review more than 1,000 pages of unredacted communications	Governor	Release what no law makes confidential
Shareholder suits	A 2025 Texas law lets Tesla bar derivative suits by shareholders holding less than 3%, and a Delaware	Legislature	Repeal the 3% threshold or lower it

Matter	The facts	Who in Texas can act	First step
	judge sent the remaining suits against Musk and Tesla's directors to Texas		
The Twitter shareholder verdict	A federal jury found Musk's May 2022 tweets about his Twitter purchase false and misleading, and investors who sold Twitter shares from May 13, 2022 to Oct. 4, 2022 must file claims by Nov. 24, 2026	Legislature; state pension systems	Confirm that the state's pension funds have filed
Musk's posts about his Twitter purchase	A federal jury found his May 13, 2022 and May 17, 2022 posts misleading, and Musk had moved to Texas in December 2020	District attorneys; State Securities Board	A fraud review under the Texas Securities Act before the five-year limit closes in May 2027
Musk's role in Grok	The Washington Post reported that Musk pressed xAI to make Grok more popular and appeared to encourage the "undressing" of images in his posts on X	District attorneys in Bastrop and Cameron counties	A review of whether Musk directed or encouraged the images, within the three-year limit
Musk's money and the state's decisions	Musk gave Abbott's campaign $500,000 in May 2026, and Abbott's office later approved a $1.66	Texas Rangers' Public Integrity Unit; district attorneys; Legislature	A bribery review of the Abbott-Musk communications for an express agreement

Matter	The facts	Who in Texas can act	First step
	billion tax break for Terafab		
Tesla's range estimates	Reuters reported in July 2023 that Musk ordered the dashboard range display to read optimistic and that a Tesla team canceled service appointments for range complaints, and Tesla disclosed a Justice Department subpoena on vehicle range that October	Attorney General	Add the range claims to the Deceptive Trade Practices Act investigation
Grok's face scans	A class action filed Oct. 7, 2026 alleges that Grok extracts facial geometry from every face photo a user uploads, without notice or consent, and that xAI publishes no retention schedule for it	Attorney General	A suit under the biometric privacy law that produced the $1.4 billion Meta settlement
Musk's use of Tesla's property	Nvidia memos show Musk redirected 12,000 processors Tesla had ordered to X in December 2023, and federal prosecutors sought records in 2023 on a Tesla-funded glass building planned for him near Austin	Travis County District Attorney	A review under the misapplication of fiduciary property statute before the seven-year limit

Matter	The facts	Who in Texas can act	First step
Musk's Twitter share purchases	The SEC said Musk crossed 5 percent of Twitter on March 14, 2022, bought more than $500 million in shares before disclosing his stake on April 4, 2022, and underpaid the sellers by at least $150 million; the case settled for $1.5 million	District attorneys; State Securities Board	A fraud review under the Texas Securities Act before the five-year limit closes on April 4, 2027
The Musk Foundation	The Austin-based foundation reported $14.7 billion in assets and $393.6 million of undistributed income for 2024, and sent $370 million that year to a Texas nonprofit that shares the foundation's post office box and is run by Musk's top aide	Attorney General	An examination of both charities' records under the Business Organizations Code

Elon Musk himself

Texas law reaches Musk personally, in criminal and civil cases, for his own statements and conduct and for what he directed his companies to do. A Texas fraud indictment over his May 2022 Twitter posts, which a federal jury found misleading, can be brought until May 2027.

How Texas law reaches an executive. Texas makes an individual criminally responsible for conduct the individual performs in a company's name as if it were done in the individual's own name, and holds an agent with primary responsibility for a company's legal duty responsible for failing to discharge it (Penal Code 7.23). A person who solicits, encourages, directs or aids an offense with intent to promote it is responsible for the offense as a party (Penal Code 7.02).

On the civil side, the Texas Supreme Court held in *Miller v. Keyser* in 2002 that a company's agent can be personally liable for the misrepresentations the agent makes under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act. An Attorney General's suit over Tesla's marketing can name Musk for the statements he made himself.

Statements to investors. Musk said on Dec. 8, 2020 that he had moved to Texas. A federal jury in San Francisco found on March 20, 2026 that two of his May 2022 posts were misleading: his May 13, 2022 post that his Twitter purchase was "temporarily on hold," and his May 17, 2022 post that the deal "cannot move forward."

The Texas Securities Act makes it a felony to knowingly make a materially untrue or misleading statement in connection with buying or selling any security, a first-degree felony when $100,000 or more is involved (Gov't Code 4007.203). An indictment must come within five years, so the window for the two posts closes on May 13, 2027 and May 17, 2027.

The securities class action in the Western District of Texas accuses Musk and other Tesla executives of misleading investors about driver assistance and the robotaxi from April 19, 2023 to June 22, 2025, so the five-year window for statements in that period stays open into 2030. *Perry v. Musk* alleges that Musk sold $7.53 billion of Tesla stock in 2022 after learning that Tesla would miss their fourth-quarter targets, and the window for 2022 sales closes in 2027.

The Securities Commissioner can order a halt to fraudulent conduct and impose administrative fines. After an investigation, the State Securities Board's enforcement staff can recommend criminal prosecution of a suspected violator, and the commissioner must send evidence of a criminal violation to the district or county attorney of the county with venue (Gov't Code 4007.001).

The Twitter stake. The Securities and Exchange Commission alleged that Musk crossed the 5 percent ownership threshold in Twitter on March 14, 2022, kept buying for 11 days past the disclosure deadline, and bought more than $500 million in shares at prices that did not reflect his stake before he disclosed it on April 4, 2022, underpaying the sellers by at least $150 million by the agency's estimate. The agency charged the delay as a late filing, and the case settled in July 2026 for a $1.5 million penalty paid by the Elon Musk Revocable Trust, with no admission. The Texas Securities Act's fraud section also covers an act or course of business that operates as a fraud or deceit on any person in connection with a securities transaction, so a Texas prosecutor reviewing the purchases would have to show that Musk intended the delay to deceive the sellers, and the five-year limit on the last purchase closes on April 4, 2027.

Tesla's property. Nvidia memos obtained by CNBC show that in December 2023 Musk redirected 12,000 H100 processors that Nvidia had shipped for Tesla to X, which delayed more than $500 million of Tesla's order by months, and that a February 2024 Nvidia email described a "Musk mandate" to make 100,000 processors available to xAI by the end of 2024. Musk confirmed the diversion, saying Tesla's Texas data center was still under construction and had

nowhere to put them. In August 2023 the Wall Street Journal reported that federal prosecutors in Manhattan and the Securities and Exchange Commission were investigating Tesla's spending on "Project 42," a glass building planned near Tesla's Austin headquarters that employees understood to be a house for Musk, after Tesla ordered millions of dollars of specialized glass. Tesla told investors on Oct. 23, 2023 that the Justice Department had subpoenaed records on "personal benefits, related parties, vehicle range and personnel decisions," and Tesla's October 2026 quarterly report still lists government requests on topics including "related parties" and personnel.

Texas makes it a crime for a fiduciary to deal with property contrary to the agreement or law under which the fiduciary holds it, a first-degree felony when the property is worth $300,000 or more (Penal Code 32.45), and the statute's fiduciary includes anyone acting in a fiduciary capacity, which a corporation's officers and directors are toward the corporation. Offenses under that chapter of the Penal Code carry a seven-year limit, to December 2030 for the processors and to 2029 for the glass ordered in 2022. Tesla has had their headquarters in Austin since December 2021, which gives the Travis County District Attorney venue.

Statements to buyers. In the low-visibility investigation, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's July 2, 2026 demand asked whether 15 Tesla and Musk marketing statements overstate what Full Self-Driving can do. California's Department of Motor Vehicles ruled in December 2025 that the "Autopilot" and "Full Self-Driving" names misled buyers.

Grok. The Washington Post reported on Feb. 2, 2026 that Musk became a constant presence at xAI's offices after leaving his government role in May 2025 and championed a metric of how long users spent with the bot. The Post also reported that Musk appeared to encourage the "undressing" of images in his posts on X, and Musk shared a Grok-generated image of himself in a bikini on Dec. 31, 2025, after which requests to edit photos surged.

A district attorney reviewing Grok's images can examine whether Musk solicited, encouraged, directed or aided the conduct the 2025 statutes made a crime. Indictments under Penal Code 21.165 and 43.235 must come within three years of the offense, by late December 2028 and January 2029 for images made in that period.

Money and the state's decisions. Musk gave Abbott's campaign $500,000 in May 2026 and $5 million in the weeks before the election. Abbott's office approved a $1.66 billion tax break for Terafab in 2026, and the broadband office changed the payment schedule that let Starlink collect early after a request from Abbott's office.

Texas law treats a political contribution as a bribe only under an express agreement to take specific official action, proven by direct evidence, and makes that bribery a second-degree felony (Penal Code 36.02). The more than 1,000 pages of Abbott-Musk communications that Judge Catherine Mauzy ordered opened for review are the first record prosecutors and an investigating committee can search for one.

The Texas Rangers' Public Integrity Unit investigates offenses by state officers and refers them to the appropriate prosecutor, and a district attorney can charge the person who offered the benefit. The three-year limit counts from each payment, to May 2029 for the May 2026 contribution.

The Musk Foundation. Musk's private foundation moved to Austin in 2020 and files from a post office box there. The foundation's 2024 tax return reports $14.7 billion in assets at the end of 2024, $474.3 million in grants paid and $393.6 million of undistributed income carried into 2025, after the New York Times found that the foundation had given less than the minimum the tax code requires in each of the three prior years. Three grants totaling $370 million, more than three quarters of the year's giving, went to The Foundation, a Texas nonprofit that lists the same Austin post office box as their address, whose board is led by Jared Birchall, the head of Musk's family office, and which operates a private school in Bastrop County near Musk's companies there.

The Texas Attorney General may inspect and examine the records of any Texas filing entity and investigate their organization, conduct and management (Bus. Orgs. Code 12.151 to 12.153), and is a proper party in any proceeding involving a charitable trust, with venue in Travis County for the office's own suit alleging a breach of fiduciary duty by a charity's managers (Prop. Code 123.002 and 123.005).

Deaths at the companies' sites. The responsibility statute for agents reaches the executive with primary responsibility for a safety duty the law places on a company. Manslaughter has no statute of limitations in Texas, and criminally negligent homicide must be charged within three years, by May 15, 2029 for the Starfactory death.

Tesla's cars: driver assistance and the robotaxi

A federal jury in Miami held Tesla liable for an Autopilot death in August 2025, and California's Department of Motor Vehicles ruled in December 2025 that the "Autopilot" and "Full Self-Driving" names misled buyers. Tesla has carried riders in driverless cars in Austin since January 2026 and has offered robotaxi rides in Dallas and Houston since April 2026, under a 2025 Texas law that lets the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles suspend an operator only when their cars cause or threaten serious bodily injury, and only after notice and a chance to fix the problem.

Crashes and deaths. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Autopilot investigation, closed in April 2024, analyzed 467 crashes, 13 of them fatal, through Aug. 30, 2023. The agency found that a mismatch between Autopilot's capabilities and Tesla's driver monitoring created a "critical safety gap" that "led to foreseeable misuse and avoidable crashes."

NHTSA also found that Tesla receives crash data mainly when air bags or seatbelt pretensioners deploy, about 18% of police-reported crashes, so Tesla "is not aware of every crash involving Autopilot even for severe crashes." Tesla recalled 2,031,220 vehicles in December 2023 with a software update "while not agreeing with the agency's analysis," and NHTSA opened an investigation in April 2024 into whether the fix works after crashes continued in updated cars.

Open federal investigations. NHTSA had these investigations of Tesla's driver-assistance systems open in 2026.

Investigation	Vehicles	What NHTSA is examining	Latest step
EA26-002, opened March 18, 2026	3,203,754	Full Self-Driving crashes in reduced visibility, such as sun glare and fog, with 9 crashes and 1 death; NHTSA said Tesla's data limits "could have led to underreporting"	A July 2, 2026 demand sought a Tesla document titled "Radar Saves Us" and asked whether 15 Tesla and Musk marketing statements overstate the system; answers were due Aug. 12, 2026
PE25-012, opened Oct. 7, 2025	2,882,566	Cars on Full Self-Driving going through red lights or traveling the wrong way, among other traffic violations, with 58 incidents and 23 injuries at opening	Still a preliminary evaluation in July 2026, after NHTSA asked whether Tesla intends to recall
AQ25-002, opened Aug. 19, 2025	About 2.6 million	Whether Tesla reported crashes on time; NHTSA found reports on crashes that "occurred several months or more before the dates of the reports"	Listed as active in May 2026

Investigation	Vehicles	What NHTSA is examining	Latest step
AQ26-002, opened Sept. 3, 2026	About 1,000	How Tesla certified the Cybercab, which has no steering wheel or pedals, as meeting federal safety standards	Sworn answers were due Oct. 30, 2026

The Miami verdict. On Aug. 1, 2025 a federal jury in Miami found Tesla 33% responsible for a 2019 crash in Key Largo in which a Model S on Autopilot went through a stop sign at 62 mph and killed Naibel Benavides Leon, 22. The jury's awards left Tesla owing $242.57 million, including $200 million in punitive damages, after Tesla had rejected a $60 million settlement offer before trial.

Plaintiffs' lawyers presented evidence that the car uploaded a "collision snapshot" to Tesla's servers within about three minutes of the crash, and that Tesla told them the data did not exist until Tesla produced the file in May 2025 while facing a sanctions hearing. U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom ruled on Feb. 19, 2026 that the trial evidence "more than supports the jury verdict," and Tesla's appeal to the Eleventh Circuit was in briefing in November 2026.

Crash suits in Texas courts. In *Fields v. Tesla*, filed in Harris County, five police officers allege that a Model X on Autopilot hit their traffic stop on the Eastex Freeway near Splendora on Feb. 27, 2021 because Autopilot "fails to detect vehicles that are using flashing lights." Tesla settled *Tran v. Tesla*, a Harris County suit over a 2020 Autopilot crash into a constable's vehicle on Interstate 10, days before its November 2025 trial.

A family sued Tesla in Harris County after a Model 3 crashed into a Katy home on June 19, 2026 and killed Martha Avila, 76. The driver told deputies Autopilot was engaged, and Tesla says he had pressed the accelerator to 100%.

Since the Miami verdict Tesla has settled death suits over Autopilot and Full Self-Driving shortly before trial on confidential terms, among them the Arizona pedestrian death at the center of NHTSA's low-visibility investigation.

California's false-advertising ruling. California's Department of Motor Vehicles ruled on Dec. 16, 2025 that Tesla's "Autopilot" and "Full Self-Driving Capability" names were misleading, citing Tesla's claim that "The system is designed to be able to conduct short and long-distance trips with no action required." The department found that the cars "could not at the time of those advertisements, and cannot now" operate as autonomous vehicles.

Tesla stopped selling Autopilot as a separate product in the U.S. and Canada in January 2026 and renamed their system "Full Self-Driving (Supervised)," and the department confirmed on Feb. 17, 2026 that Tesla had complied. Tesla then sued to overturn the ruling.

Texans saw the same nationwide advertising from May 2021 on. The Texas Attorney General's 2024 investigation of automakers' driving-data practices sent demands to six automakers and left Tesla out.

Range. Reuters reported on July 27, 2023 that the directive to show drivers optimistic range estimates came from Musk, according to a person who worked on the software, and that Tesla created a "Diversion Team" in Las Vegas to cancel as many range-related service appointments as possible. The team fielded up to 2,000 cases a week and was expected to close about 750 of them, and advisers were instructed to keep from the customer any other problem the remote diagnostics found. South Korea's Fair Trade Commission had fined Tesla about $2.2 million on Jan. 3, 2023 for overstating range in cold weather, and Tesla disclosed on Oct. 23, 2023 that the Justice Department had subpoenaed records on vehicle range. The Deceptive Trade Practices Act reaches the range claims made to Texas buyers on the same terms as the Autopilot marketing, as set out under What Texas can do.

The robotaxi. Seven Austin-area Democratic legislators asked Tesla in June 2025 to wait for a new state law, writing, "We are formally requesting that Tesla delay autonomous robotaxi operations until the new law takes effect on September 1, 2025." Tesla launched in Austin on June 22, 2025 with safety monitors in the passenger seat.

Tesla began rides with no one in the car on Jan. 22, 2026, four months before the state's authorization requirement became enforceable on May 28, 2026. Tesla added Dallas and Houston in April 2026 and put Cybercabs into Austin service on Sept. 3, 2026.

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles listed 1,080 Tesla vehicles authorized to operate without a driver on Oct. 29, 2026. Tesla had filed 22 robotaxi incident reports with NHTSA by mid-August 2026, two of them crashes while remote operators were driving, and Tesla redacts most of the narratives.

What the Texas law allows. Under Senate Bill 2807, passed in 2025, the department must approve any applicant that meets the law's requirements, and authorizations do not expire. The department may suspend or revoke one only when a vehicle's operation has caused or is likely to cause serious bodily injury, and only after notice and a chance to fix the problem; if a state hearing does not happen within 60 days, the authorization is reinstated.

The law bars cities from regulating driverless cars, and the department says they are "unlikely to act" on complaints below the serious-injury standard. The law also requires each driverless vehicle to comply with federal motor vehicle safety standards, so the outcome of NHTSA's Cybercab audit bears on Tesla's Texas authorization.

Tesla's Texas plants and tax deals

Travis County found Tesla partly out of compliance with the 2020 tax-rebate deal on April 7, 2026 and withheld 9% of Tesla's rebates for 2020 to 2022, with Tesla's reports for 2023 through 2025 still under review. Two contract workers have died at the Austin factory, and the Wall Street Journal reported in November 2024 that a Tesla compliance staffer wrote, "Tesla repeatedly asked me to lie to the government."

Pollution at the Austin factory (Travis County). The Wall Street Journal reported in November 2024 that Tesla drained an unpermitted six-acre wastewater pond into Austin's sewer system and that storms carried chemical runoff from the factory into the Colorado River. The Journal also reported a 2024 memo in which a compliance staffer wrote, "Tesla repeatedly asked me to lie to the government," and that the Environmental Protection Agency's criminal enforcement division opened an inquiry into the staffer's allegations. By the Journal's account, the door of a casting furnace for Model Y parts would not shut and sent emissions into the air for months during the plant's ramp-up, and that Austin Water notified Tesla that a discharge of 9,000 gallons of untreated wastewater into the sewer violated Tesla's permit. In 2024 Tesla used a 2023 state law to remove the factory site from Austin's extraterritorial jurisdiction, after which the plant was no longer subject to the city's environmental regulations, and in September 2026 the Save Our Springs Alliance sued the city in Travis County over redactions in Tesla's communications with Austin Water. Texas makes a knowingly false material statement in a document filed under the state's water-quality law a crime (Water Code 7.149), the same for a document filed under the Texas Clean Air Act (Water Code 7.179), and venue for every offense under the Water Code's criminal subchapter lies in the county of the violation or in Travis County, as set out under What Texas can do.

Tesla disclosed no environmental proceeding against the factory in the legal-proceedings note of their quarterly report filed in October 2026. Tesla has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to amend the factory's air permits, raising its permitted volatile organic compounds from 483.12 to 570.68 tons a year and its nitrogen oxides from 164.38 to 236.43 tons a year.

Deaths and injuries at the factory. Antelmo Ramirez, 57, a contract worker, died of hyperthermia during construction on Sept. 28, 2021, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited his employer $14,502. Tesla's 2021 report to Travis County left out his death, although the county agreement requires Tesla to report "the number of injuries and deaths, if any, that may have occurred in the performance of the construction."

Victor Joe Gomez Sr., a contract electrician, was electrocuted on Aug. 1, 2024 while inspecting a live electrical cabinet that had not been locked out. OSHA cited Tesla for three serious violations totaling $49,650 on Jan. 31, 2025, and Tesla contested all three on Feb. 25, 2025. OSHA's record showed no final order in November 2026.

The Travis County rebate deal. Travis County agreed on July 14, 2020 to rebate 70% to 80% of Tesla's county operating taxes, an estimated $14.65 million over 10 years, if Tesla created 5,001 jobs paying at least $15 an hour and met conditions on green building and construction safety. Tesla pays their county taxes first and receives the refunds after the county verifies compliance.

On April 7, 2026 the Commissioners Court voted to withhold 9% of the rebates for tax years 2020 to 2022 because Tesla had not fully documented their green building program, construction-site safety, minimum hourly wages and their janitorial and food-service contracts. Tesla also has not built Tesla Road, a project voters funded with $11.9 million in 2017 that Tesla agreed to take on.

Tesla reported 16,506 jobs at the factory in 2025, down 22% from 2024 and well above the 5,001-job floor. The Del Valle Independent School District capped the factory's taxable school value at $80 million for 10 years under a 2020 agreement worth up to $50 million to Tesla.

The lithium refinery in Robstown (Nueces County). The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality permitted Tesla's refinery on Jan. 15, 2025 to discharge up to 231,000 gallons a day of treated wastewater into a ditch that drains to Petronila Creek and Baffin Bay. Nueces County Drainage District No. 2 says Tesla never asked to use the district's easement.

Tests that the drainage district commissioned found traces of hexavalent chromium and arsenic, which the permit does not allow Tesla to discharge. The commission's own sampling did not test for heavy metals, and the permit does not require Tesla to monitor for the metals the district found. The commission concluded that Tesla was not violating their permit.

Terafab (Grimes County). Gov. Greg Abbott announced a $30 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant on Aug. 6, 2026 for Terafab, a chip complex planned by SpaceX and other Musk companies, in addition to the school-tax break described under Musk's political money in Texas. Grimes County approved a 100% property-tax abatement for up to 10 years on June 3, 2026, and the county estimated the full buildout at up to $119 billion in a public notice.

The Attorney General's office ruled on July 28, 2026 that most of the Terafab records requested from Grimes County must be released, and SpaceX sued the Attorney General and the county on Sept. 8, 2026 to block their release. The incoming Attorney General inherits that lawsuit as a defendant.

Discrimination cases in California. California's Civil Rights Department tried their race-discrimination case over Tesla's Fremont factory, which covers more than 6,000 Black workers, in a bench trial that closed on Oct. 30, 2026. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's 2023 suit over the same factory was in mediation in 2026.

SpaceX, Starbase, the Boring Company and Neuralink in Texas

Texas settled four unpermitted wastewater discharges at SpaceX's launch site for $3,750 in 2024, and in 2025 the Legislature and the Texas Space Commission gave Starbase, the city SpaceX petitioned to create around that site, authority to close Boca Chica Beach and State Highway 4. The Texas Supreme Court ruled on June 19, 2026 that private citizens cannot sue to enforce the constitutional right to use that beach, which leaves its enforcement to state and county officials.

Launch-site wastewater (Cameron County). The Environmental Protection Agency alleged eight discharges of deluge water and liquid oxygen into wetlands beside the Rio Grande from 2022 to 2024, one of them a 36,000-gallon liquid oxygen spill. SpaceX paid a $148,378 federal penalty under a consent order without admitting or denying the allegations, and SpaceX used the deluge system during their March 14, 2024 test flight, the day after they received the EPA's notice.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality found four unpermitted discharges between March and July 2024 and settled them for a $3,750 penalty in an agreed order that SpaceX signed on Aug. 13, 2024. In a July 2024 permit application SpaceX reported mercury at 113 micrograms per liter against a state aquatic-life criterion of 2.1, and the company later said there "may be a typo in one table."

The commission's members voted unanimously to issue the permit on Feb. 13, 2025 and denied every request for a contested-case hearing, including requests from the Carrizo/Comecrudo Nation and Save RGV. The commission enforces the permit's limits and can refer violations to the Attorney General for a civil suit.

Beach and highway closures (Cameron County). A 2013 law, House Bill 2623, amended the Open Beaches Act to allow closures of Boca Chica Beach for launches. The Federal Aviation Administration approved up to 25 Starship launches a year from the site in 2025, and the license caps closures at 500 hours a year plus 300 for anomalies.

The stand-alone bills to give Starbase control of weekday closures did not become law in 2025. The conference committee on House Bill 5246 added closure authority for Starbase in a last-minute change to the space commission bill, effective Sept. 1, 2025.

Under Order 2025-01, which the Texas Space Commission issued on Sept. 23, 2025, Starbase may close the beach and the highway by ordinance or by order of the mayor, with no state cap on hours. Cameron County receives notice of each closure and has no part in approving or enforcing them.

The Texas Supreme Court ruled unanimously on June 19, 2026 that the 2009 open-beaches amendment gives private citizens no right to sue, which ended a four-year challenge by environmental groups and the Carrizo/Comecrudo Nation without a ruling on whether the 2013 law is constitutional. The General Land Office certified Starbase's beach access plan by rule, effective Dec. 25, 2025, under Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, who lost to Benjamin Flores on Nov. 3, 2026. Flores takes over the office in January 2027. Under the Open Beaches Act, any county attorney or district attorney must sue to enforce the act, the Attorney General may sue at the land commissioner's request, and a violation carries a civil penalty of $50 to $2,000 for each day it continues (Nat. Res. Code 61.018). The Space Commission can revoke or modify Order 2025-01 by written notice, and repealing the 2013 law and the closure sections of House Bill 5246 takes a vote of the Legislature.

Starbase (Cameron County). Voters approved the city of Starbase on May 3, 2025, and an analysis of the voter rolls by the public radio collaboration Texas Newsroom found that almost all eligible voters work for SpaceX. The mayor, Bobby Peden, and one of the city's two commissioners work for SpaceX.

On May 21, 2025, the day after the city formed, the city administrator wrote to property owners that under a proposed zoning ordinance they "may lose the right to continue using" their property. The city took a $1.5 million tax note from SpaceX in 2025 and voted to seek a second note of more than $1 million from the company to carry the city until their January 2026 tax collections.

In August 2026 the city asked landowners to join an annexation of about 7,100 acres of state and private land, and Cameron County Commissioner Sofia Benavides said, "There's nothing that we can do to stop it." The city annexed about 7,000 acres in September 2026 and said they intend to take part of State Highway 4.

Order 2025-01 requires Starbase to keep closure records and provide them to the Space Commission on request, and the Attorney General rules on any request by the city to withhold public records.

Explosions and debris. Starship's seventh and eighth test flights broke apart over the Caribbean on Jan. 16, 2025 and March 6, 2025. After the first breakup Turks and Caicos officials investigated reports of property damage from debris, and after the second the Federal Aviation Administration halted or slowed departures at four Florida airports.

On June 18, 2025 a Starship exploded on the test stand at SpaceX's Massey site in Cameron County, and residents of Matamoros reported metal debris from the explosion on Mexican beaches.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said that if SpaceX had violated international law, "we will file any necessary claims." Mexico's Navy announced on July 24, 2025 that they had

ordered a SpaceX recovery platform to withdraw because it "did not meet operating requirements."

Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño told the Rio Grande Valley station KRGV that the county is not always notified of tests when no closure is in place. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has jurisdiction over unauthorized air emissions and water discharges from fires and explosions at the test sites.

Worker injuries and a death at Starbase. In an analysis of federal workplace-safety data that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration confirmed, the nonprofit investigative magazine Texas Observer found Starbase's injury rate was "more than five times the national average for comparable U.S. space vehicle manufacturing facilities." SpaceX reported 427 employee injuries at their South Texas sites from Jan. 6, 2022 to June 10, 2025, a count that leaves out contractors.

In January 2026 OSHA cited SpaceX for seven serious violations and $115,850 after a crane collapsed at Starbase in June 2025, and SpaceX contested the citations. On May 15, 2026 Jose Luis Bautista, a 25-year-old from Donna who worked for the contractor Delta Fabrication and Machine, died at the Starfactory when the 8,000-pound beam he was strapped to fell about five stories.

OSHA opened an investigation into the death, and federal law bars a citation more than six months after a violation, so OSHA must act on violations from the day of the death by Nov. 15, 2026. Texas has no state workplace-safety plan. The Cameron County District Attorney has criminal jurisdiction over a death caused by criminal negligence in the county.

The Boring Company (Bastrop County). The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality cited the company for two "major" violations in 2022 when untreated wastewater flowed onto public road drainage from the company's site. In 2024 the company settled four more violations, including "unauthorized discharge of concrete truck wash out water," for $11,876 in an agreed order.

Through an affiliate, the company applied to discharge up to 142,500 gallons a day of treated wastewater into the Colorado River, and they withdrew the application on April 24, 2024 after the City of Bastrop agreed to treat wastewater from Musk's companies at the city's plant. In Nevada, the Clark County Water Reclamation District fined the company $492,297.08 in November 2025 for dumping drilling fluids into sewers after an inspector ordered them to stop.

The commission can refer violations at the Bastrop site to the Attorney General, and Bastrop County issues the site's septic and development permits.

Neuralink (Travis County). Neuralink built a 37-acre campus at 2200 Caldwell Lane in Del Valle, east of Austin. Reuters reported in December 2022 that about 1,500 animals had died in

Neuralink's care since 2018 and that the Agriculture Department's inspector general had opened an investigation at a federal prosecutor's request.

Agriculture Department inspectors found no violations in January 2023 beyond a 2019 incident that Neuralink had self-reported. Musk's lawyer wrote on Dec. 12, 2024 that the Securities and Exchange Commission had "reopened an investigation into Neuralink." Federal agencies oversee animal research and medical-device trials, and Travis County reviews the campus's site plans.

Starlink and the state's broadband money. SpaceX signed final agreements with the Texas Broadband Development Office for $108,787,903 to serve 63,887 locations, out of $1.07 billion in total awards. On Feb. 4, 2026 SpaceX asked state offices to loosen coverage and speed terms and to pay before service begins.

State Sen. Charles Schwertner told a Senate committee that the office changed the payment schedule for satellite providers "a day or two before awards were issued," and the office's director, Bryant Clayton, testified that the change followed a request from Gov. Greg Abbott's office to compare payment structures.

The state froze all broadband disbursements on Aug. 11, 2026, after Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dustin Burrows called in July 2026 for an audit due before the Legislature returns in January 2027. The Comptroller's Broadband Development Office controls the contracts and the payments.

State park and refuge land (Cameron County). In March 2024 the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved trading 43 acres of Boca Chica State Park to SpaceX for 477 acres elsewhere, and SpaceX withdrew from the trade on Sept. 26, 2024 after the Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe and two environmental groups sued in Travis County.

A federal exchange signed on Sept. 1, 2026 trades 715 acres of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge to SpaceX for 683 acres near Laguna Atascosa, and SpaceX plans to expand their Massey test site on the refuge land. U.S. District Judge Fernando Rodriguez Jr. denied a preliminary injunction on Sept. 21, 2026, and the Parks and Wildlife Commission controls any future trade of state park land.

Grok and X

Grok, the chatbot Musk's xAI built into X, produced sexualized images of real women and children by the millions from late December 2025 into January 2026, and 43 Texas House Democrats asked Attorney General Ken Paxton on Jan. 12, 2026 to investigate. Paxton did not publicly respond, while 35 other state attorneys general wrote to xAI.

What Grok produced. Requests to Grok to edit photos surged after Musk shared a Grok-generated image of himself in a bikini on Dec. 31, 2025, and users asked Grok to "undress" photos of real women and girls on X. The Center for Countering Digital Hate, a nonprofit that studies online abuse, estimated that Grok produced about 3 million sexualized images in 11 days, about 23,000 of which appeared to depict children.

Musk posted on Jan. 14, 2026 that he was "not aware of any naked underage images generated by Grok. Literally zero." X limited Grok's image replies to paying users in early January 2026, and on Jan. 14, 2026 X said they had blocked Grok from editing images of real people into revealing clothing. That restriction did not cover Grok's standalone app and website.

The Texas request. On Jan. 12, 2026, 43 House Democrats led by Rep. Mihaela Plesa asked Paxton to investigate X and xAI over Grok under Texas law and to check X's compliance with the state's age-verification law. The signers included then-Rep. James Talarico, who defeated Paxton for the U.S. Senate on Nov. 3, 2026.

The Texas Tribune reported on Oct. 15, 2026 that Paxton "did not publicly respond" to the request. Texas was not among the 35 state attorneys general who wrote to xAI on Jan. 23, 2026, a group that included at least nine Republicans.

Paxton's record on Musk's critics. Paxton opened an investigation of Media Matters, the group whose research on ads beside antisemitic posts X had sued over, within hours of X's suit on Nov. 20, 2023, and a federal judge blocked his demand for documents in April 2024. On Nov. 21, 2024 he opened an investigation of the World Federation of Advertisers, three months after X sued the group.

In the same period Paxton investigated Meta AI Studio and Character.AI over claims they made to children, and he won a $1.4 billion biometric privacy settlement from Meta in July 2024. A super PAC backing his Senate campaign received $10 million from the Elon Musk Revocable Trust on Aug. 21, 2026; the rest of Musk's money in that race is set out under Musk's political money in Texas.

Grok's face scans. A proposed class action filed on Oct. 7, 2026 in Illinois, *Padilla v. SpaceXAI Corp.*, alleges that when a user uploads a photo of a face, Grok extracts a scan of the face's geometry without notice or a written release, ties the scan to the user's account and conversation history, and uses the uploads to train xAI's products unless the user opts out. The complaint alleges that xAI's privacy policy says nothing about facial geometry and sets no retention schedule for it, and that xAI had employees sign release forms before recording their faces for a training project called "Project Skippy."

The suit is under Illinois law. Texas's biometric law, Business and Commerce Code 503.001, bars capturing a "record of hand or face geometry" for a commercial purpose without first informing the person and getting consent, at a civil penalty of up to $25,000 for each violation

that only the Attorney General can collect. Meta paid Texas $1.4 billion under that statute in July 2024, and Google paid $1.375 billion in May 2025 to settle claims under it and the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

Where the companies are. X Corp. moved their headquarters to Bastrop in September 2024, and their terms of service require users to sue the company in the Northern District of Texas or Tarrant County. SpaceX, which moved their incorporation to Texas in February 2024, acquired xAI on Feb. 2, 2026, and xAI now operates as a SpaceX division called SpaceXAI.

In July 2026 xAI asked a federal judge in San Jose to move a class action by people Grok depicted to Texas, citing X's forum clause. X's own defamation suit against Media Matters in federal court in Fort Worth is set for a jury trial on March 29, 2027.

Texas law that reaches Grok. Since Sept. 1, 2025, Texas law has made it a crime to produce or distribute sexual deepfake images of a real person without consent and to possess or promote AI-generated sexual images of children (Penal Code 21.165 and 43.235), and district attorneys prosecute those offenses. The deepfake statute gives an AI developer a defense only if their terms prohibit such images and they have taken technical steps to prevent them, which puts xAI's safeguards from late December 2025 to mid-January 2026 at issue.

The Attorney General alone enforces the state's AI law, the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act, in effect since Jan. 1, 2026, and a 2025 law that makes a platform's failure to remove a sexual deepfake within 72 hours of a victim's request a deceptive trade practice. Each of those laws, with its penalties and procedures, is set out under What Texas can do.

Regulators elsewhere. California Attorney General Rob Bonta opened an investigation of xAI on Jan. 14, 2026. Regulators in Britain, the European Union, Ireland and Australia opened their own investigations of Grok in January and February 2026, and Canada's privacy commissioner found in June 2026 that X and xAI had violated Canadian privacy law.

Securities and shareholders

Tesla became a Texas corporation on June 13, 2024, and a Texas law signed on May 14, 2025 let Tesla bar derivative suits, which shareholders bring on the company's behalf against Tesla's own officers and directors, by anyone holding less than 3% of the company's stock. Tesla's board adopted that threshold the next day, and a Delaware judge sent the remaining shareholder suits against Musk and Tesla's directors to Texas on April 13, 2026.

Senate Bill 29. State Sen. Bryan Hughes filed Senate Bill 29 on Feb. 27, 2025, and Gov. Greg Abbott signed it on May 14, 2025. The law lets a public company require up to 3% ownership to bring a derivative suit, codifies a presumption that directors act in good faith, allows jury waivers and excludes emails and texts from most shareholder records demands.

Tesla's board adopted the 3% threshold on May 15, 2025. New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and New York City Comptroller Brad Lander, who vote their pension funds' Tesla shares, wrote that only Musk and "a handful of the largest asset managers" could meet it, and Tesla shareholders voted down a proposal to repeal it on Nov. 6, 2025, with about 24.7% in favor.

A federal court in Texas upheld the threshold in a Southwest Airlines case on March 17, 2026, and the plaintiff has appealed to the Fifth Circuit. The Texas Business Court ruled on Oct. 2, 2026, in a Coinbase case, that Texas demand rules apply to conduct from before a company moved to Texas: a shareholder must make a written demand and wait 91 days, with no exception when a demand would be futile.

Shareholder suits sent to Texas. Delaware Vice Chancellor Bonnie David dismissed the last Tesla shareholder suits in Delaware on April 13, 2026, holding that Tesla's bylaws send them to Texas. The suits concern Musk's AI company and his Twitter purchase, among other claims, and the plaintiffs appealed to the Delaware Supreme Court in May 2026.

The xAI suit, which the Cleveland Bakers and Teamsters Pension Fund filed on June 13, 2024, cites the Nvidia memos on the 12,000 processors Musk redirected from Tesla to X, reports that at least 11 employees moved from Tesla to xAI, and asks the court to order Musk to turn his xAI stake over to Tesla. While that suit was pending, Tesla agreed on Jan. 16, 2026 to invest about $2 billion in xAI, and SpaceX acquired xAI on Feb. 2, 2026. The criminal statute that reaches the use of Tesla's property for Musk's other companies is set out under Elon Musk himself.

One shareholder suit, *Perry v. Musk*, alleges that Musk sold $7.53 billion of Tesla stock in 2022 after learning that Tesla would miss their fourth-quarter targets, and Musk has argued that the case belongs in Texas.

Musk's pay. The Delaware Supreme Court restored Musk's 2018 pay package on Dec. 19, 2025, holding that rescission was the wrong remedy. The court left undecided the trial court's findings that Musk controlled the process and that the pay was unfair, and awarded the shareholder who sued $1 in nominal damages.

Tesla shareholders approved a new award on Nov. 6, 2025 of 423,743,904 shares, worth nearly $1 trillion if Tesla meets every target, by 1,892,235,822 votes to 564,940,908. A challenge to either award would now proceed under Texas law and the 3% threshold.

The Twitter shareholder verdict. A federal jury in San Francisco found on March 20, 2026 that Musk's May 2022 tweets about his Twitter purchase were false and misleading and harmed investors who sold Twitter stock. U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer upheld the verdict on July 6, 2026 except as to one tweet, and Musk has appealed to the Ninth Circuit.

The jury set damages at $2.98 to $8.44 per share depending on the day of sale, and plaintiffs' lawyers estimated the total at up to $2.6 billion before the July ruling.

Investors who sold Twitter shares or call options, or bought put options, between May 13, 2022 and Oct. 4, 2022 must file claims by Nov. 24, 2026. Any Texas public pension fund that sold Twitter shares in that window is in the class and must file by that date to collect.

The SEC suit. Musk asked a federal judge in the District of Columbia to move the Securities and Exchange Commission's suit over his late Twitter disclosure to Texas, and Judge Sparkle Sooknanan refused on Oct. 2, 2025, writing that "Mr. Musk has considerable means and spends at least forty percent of his time outside his chosen forum." The SEC then settled for $1.5 million, as set out under What the federal government dropped.

The robotaxi securities suit. A securities class action filed on Aug. 4, 2025 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas accuses Tesla and their executives, Musk among them, of misleading investors about Tesla's driver-assistance systems and the robotaxi between April 19, 2023 and June 22, 2025, the day of the Austin launch. Tesla shares fell 6.1% over two trading days after the first Austin rides, and Tesla's motion to dismiss was fully briefed by June 2026.

Musk's political money in Texas, and DOGE

Musk put nearly $197 million into Texas campaigns from 2024 to 2026, by press accounts of state and federal filings. In 2026 Gov. Greg Abbott's office approved a $1.66 billion tax break for a Musk chip plant, and on Oct. 26, 2026 a state judge ordered Abbott to let Gina Hinojosa, who defeated him on Nov. 3, 2026, review more than 1,000 pages of his unredacted communications with Musk.

Money in the 2026 Senate race. By the Texas Tribune's review of federal filings, Musk gave $158 million to the Senate Leadership Fund in September 2026, and the fund moved the money to a new committee, Texas PAC, which spent more than $159 million on ads for Attorney General Ken Paxton's U.S. Senate campaign. The Tribune found that Musk "appears to have poured nearly $190 million" into the race.

The Nov. 3, 2026 results. Democrats won every statewide executive office on the ballot: Gina Hinojosa for governor, Vikki Goodwin for lieutenant governor, Nathan Johnson for attorney general, Sarah Eckhardt for comptroller, Benjamin Flores for land commissioner, Clayton Tucker for agriculture commissioner and Jon Rosenthal for railroad commissioner, along with the four Texas Supreme Court seats on the ballot. The Associated Press had called 76 of the 150 Texas House seats for Democrats by the afternoon of Nov. 4, 2026, a majority, with 13 seats uncalled. Republicans hold the Senate 19 to 12, and under the Senate's rules the lieutenant governor names committee chairs, refers bills and decides what reaches the floor, powers a simple majority of senators can rewrite when the Senate adopts their rules on Jan. 12, 2027.

Money in state races. Musk gave Abbott's campaign $500,000 in May 2026 and $5 million in the weeks before the election. He also gave $250,000 to House Speaker Dustin Burrows, and in September 2024 he gave $1 million to Texans for Lawsuit Reform, a committee that backs Republican legislative candidates.

Earlier in 2024, the Wall Street Journal reported, Musk was the main funder behind Saving Austin, a committee that spent more than $650,000 on ads trying to unseat Travis County District Attorney José Garza in the Democratic primary. Garza's office prosecutes crimes in Travis County, where Tesla has their headquarters.

State benefits in the same period. Abbott's office approved a $1.66 billion tax break for Musk's planned Terafab chip plant in 2026, shortly after Musk's $500,000 gift in May. The state broadband office's director testified that a payment change letting Starlink collect their federal broadband money up front followed a request from Abbott's office, and state Sen. Nathan Johnson, elected attorney general on Nov. 3, 2026, said in August 2026 that the process "may have involved coordinated corruption."

The Abbott-Musk records. Hinojosa sued Abbott in October 2026 under the Texas Public Information Act for his communications with Musk and Musk's companies, after Abbott's office reviewed 1,374 pages and, according to her campaign, redacted or blacked out all but about 200. State District Judge Catherine Mauzy of Travis County ruled on Oct. 26, 2026 that Abbott must let Hinojosa review more than 1,000 pages of unredacted communications between Abbott and Musk.

DOGE. Musk led the Department of Government Efficiency as a special government employee until his departure in late May 2025, while his companies had the open federal matters listed under What the federal government dropped. U.S. District Judge Theodore Chuang found on March 18, 2025 that Musk likely violated the Appointments Clause in shutting down the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Fourth Circuit stayed that order on March 28, 2025.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan held on March 23, 2026 that "the head of DOGE is an officer of the United States, and a principal one at that." Both cases were pending in 2026. Texas was not among the 14 states that sued over DOGE's authority in February 2025.

Social Security data. The Social Security Administration's chief data officer, Charles Borges, told Congress and the Office of Special Counsel in August 2025 that DOGE had copied NUMIDENT, the agency's master file of Social Security numbers, to a cloud server that only DOGE could access, "potentially compromising the security of over 300 million Americans."

In a January 2026 court filing, the Justice Department said a DOGE employee "shared social security data without the knowledge of agency officials and violated security protocols," and that

a political advocacy group had asked two DOGE members to analyze state voter rolls "to find evidence of voter fraud and to overturn election results in certain states."

The 2024 voter payments. Musk's America PAC paid $1 million a day to registered voters who signed the PAC's petition in the weeks before the 2024 election. At a Philadelphia hearing on Nov. 4, 2024, Musk's lawyer said the winners had been screened for "suitability" as spokespersons and that "There is no 'prize' to be won," and Judge Angelo Foglietta denied the Philadelphia District Attorney's request to stop the payments the same day.

Wisconsin's courts declined to stop Musk's $1 million payments to voters before that state's April 2025 Supreme Court election. Neither court reached the merits.

What the federal government dropped

The federal government closed or settled Musk-company matters with a combined estimated exposure of $196 million and collected $1.5 million. In April 2025 the Democratic staff of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations counted at least 65 actual or potential federal actions pending against Musk's companies when the administration took office on Jan. 20, 2025, with $2.37 billion in potential liability, and the two largest items, worth $1.47 billion together, remain unresolved.

Each matter below ended in a dismissal, a settlement, a closing or a stop order, or was last reported active on the date shown. The estimates are the Senate staff's.

Matter	Senate staff estimate	What happened	When, and who decided
Securities and Exchange Commission suit over Musk's late disclosure of his Twitter stake	$150 million	Settled for a $1.5 million penalty with no admission, and the SEC dropped their demand that Musk give up the money the agency said he saved. Judge Sparkle Sooknanan approved the deal despite "significant misgivings" about its "red flags."	Filed in May 2026 under SEC Chairman Paul Atkins; approved July 8, 2026

Matter	Senate staff estimate	What happened	When, and who decided
Justice Department suit over SpaceX's refusal to hire asylees and refugees	$46.1 million	Dismissed with prejudice at the department's request, which bars refiling, and SpaceX dropped their countersuit on Feb. 28, 2025	Dismissed Feb. 24, 2025; Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon later cited SpaceX's countersuit among the reasons
National Labor Relations Board complaint over eight SpaceX engineers fired after an open letter criticizing Musk	Not estimated	The National Mediation Board ruled that SpaceX falls under the Railway Labor Act because "space transport includes air travel," and the labor board dismissed the complaint for lack of jurisdiction	Dismissed Feb. 9, 2026 by Regional Director Danielle Pierce, after Acting General Counsel William Cowen asked the mediation board for their view in 2025
Labor Department civil-rights audit of Tesla as a federal contractor	Not estimated	The department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs halted the audit, and the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen reported that "OFCCP staff informed Tesla that its investigation stopped."	Executive order of Jan. 21, 2025; Labor Department stop order of Jan. 24, 2025
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defect investigations of Tesla	Not estimated	Three investigations closed with no recall, among them Smart Summon after 159 incidents and 97 crashes	Smart Summon closed April 3, 2026; phantom braking on nearly 700,000 vehicles closed by July 2026

Matter	Senate staff estimate	What happened	When, and who decided
Justice Department criminal investigation of Tesla's Autopilot and Full Self-Driving claims	$1.19 billion	Tesla disclosed subpoenas and requests for information in their securities filings, and Reuters reported in May 2024 that prosecutors were examining securities fraud and wire fraud	Tesla reported ongoing requests in October 2026
SEC inquiry into Neuralink's statements about their implant's safety	$281 million	Musk's lawyer wrote that the SEC had "reopened an investigation into Neuralink"	Last reported active Dec. 12, 2024
Agriculture Department inspector general's animal-welfare investigation of Neuralink	$1.59 million	The administration fired Inspector General Phyllis Fong, and NBC News reported in May 2025, "It is unclear whether the probe continues."	Fong fired Jan. 24, 2025
Federal Aviation Administration penalties proposed against SpaceX for 2023 launch violations	$633,009	The Los Angeles Times reported in March 2025 that the fine "remains open"	Proposed Sept. 17, 2024; Administrator Michael Whitaker resigned Jan. 20, 2025
Pentagon reviews of Musk's undisclosed contacts with foreign leaders	Not estimated	Inspector General Robert Storch declined in January 2025 to examine Musk's contacts with Vladimir Putin, and the Air Force said the	Storch fired Jan. 24, 2025; Air Force statement in May 2025

Matter	Senate staff estimate	What happened	When, and who decided
		service "has received no evidence that would warrant a debarment action against SpaceX"	
Environmental Protection Agency inquiry into wastewater at Tesla's Austin factory	$118,445	The agency opened an inquiry in November 2024 after a whistleblower memo	Last reported step in November 2024
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau handling of Tesla complaints	Not estimated	About 30 Tesla complaints were open in late April 2025 under a stop-work order	Acting Director Russell Vought ordered staff to stop all work in February 2025
Workplace-safety citations against Tesla and the Boring Company	$695,114	Tesla contested 26 proceedings worth $582,610, and the Boring Company contested $112,504 in Nevada citations; their hearing was postponed in February 2026 with no new date	Open as of April 2025
Justice Department subpoenas to Tesla on "personal benefits, related parties, vehicle range and personnel decisions," and the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's and SEC's inquiries into Project 42, the glass	Not estimated	Tesla disclosed the subpoenas on Oct. 23, 2023, and the Wall Street Journal reported the Project 42 inquiries in August 2023; no charge, settlement or closing has been announced	Tesla's October 2026 quarterly report lists ongoing requests on topics including "related parties" and personnel

Matter	Senate staff estimate	What happened	When, and who decided
building planned for Musk			

In the first weeks of 2025 the administration removed officials at agencies with open Musk-company matters.

Official	Office	Open Musk-company matter in that office	Removed
Michael Whitaker	Federal Aviation Administration administrator	$633,009 in proposed SpaceX penalties	Resigned Jan. 20, 2025
Phyllis Fong	Agriculture Department inspector general	Animal-welfare investigation of Neuralink	Fired Jan. 24, 2025
Robert Storch	Defense Department inspector general	Review of Musk's contacts with foreign leaders	Fired Jan. 24, 2025
Gwynne Wilcox	National Labor Relations Board chair	The SpaceX firings complaint and 14 open Tesla cases	Fired Jan. 27, 2025
Jocelyn Samuels and Charlotte Burrows	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission members	The race-harassment suit against Tesla	Fired in late January 2025
Rohit Chopra	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director	Tesla complaints and oversight of X's payments service	Fired Feb. 1, 2025
David Huitema	Office of Government Ethics director	Calls from members of Congress to investigate Musk's conflicts of interest	Fired Feb. 10, 2025

Official	Office	Open Musk-company matter in that office	Removed
Paul Martin	U.S. Agency for International Development inspector general	Review of the agency's Starlink service for Ukraine	Fired Feb. 11, 2025

Staff cuts reached the same agencies. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration cut 4% of their staff on Feb. 24, 2025, and the Financial Times reported that the agency's vehicle-automation safety team was "disproportionately affected." About 20 Food and Drug Administration employees who reviewed brain-implant trial applications, Neuralink's among them, lost their jobs in February 2025.

Some federal matters continued. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened an investigation of 2,882,566 Teslas with Full Self-Driving in October 2025 after 58 reports of cars driving through red lights or on the wrong side of the road, and in March 2026 the agency widened their low-visibility investigation to 3.2 million vehicles. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's race-harassment suit against Tesla went to court-supervised mediation in January 2026.

What Texas can do

Each office receiving this file holds a power that reaches conduct the federal government stopped pursuing. The Attorney General can demand records under the consumer-protection and AI laws, district attorneys hold the criminal power, the Governor appoints the boards that issue permits and authorizations, and the Legislature can subpoena witnesses and rewrite the 2025 laws that favored Musk's companies.

Attorney General

1. Open a Deceptive Trade Practices Act investigation of Tesla's Autopilot and Full Self-Driving marketing and Tesla's robotaxi claims to Texas buyers. A civil investigative demand under Bus. & Com. Code 17.61 reaches documents only, and a suit under Bus. & Com. Code 17.47 can win an injunction and civil penalties of up to $10,000 per violation. Restitution reaches buyers' losses within two years before the suit, and California's December 2025 findings concern the same nationwide advertising. Under the Texas Supreme Court's 2002 ruling in Miller v. Keyser, the suit can name Musk for the misrepresentations he made himself.
2. Investigate xAI and X over Grok under the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act. Its civil investigative demand (Bus. & Com. Code 552.103) reaches

training data and safeguards, and its penalties range from $80,000 to $200,000 per uncurable violation. Its ban on systems that produce sexual images of children (552.057) requires proof of "sole intent" and allows a 60-day cure, so the takedown and age-verification laws in the next item give the stronger civil case.

3. Enforce the 2025 deepfake and age-verification laws against X and SpaceXAI. Under Senate Bill 441 (Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code ch. 98B), a platform's failure to remove sexual deepfake material within 72 hours of a victim's request is a deceptive trade practice. Under House Bill 581, a tool that creates sexual images must verify that users are adults unless its terms forbid such images and it takes technical steps to block them, and the Attorney General can sue in Travis County or the company's home county (Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code 129B.006).
4. Defend the office's July 28, 2026 ruling that most Terafab records must be released, in the suit SpaceX filed on Sept. 8, 2026, and review the suits Starbase has filed against the office's records rulings.
5. Accept invitations from district attorneys. The Attorney General may join a criminal prosecution only at a local prosecutor's request (Gov't Code 402.028), under the Court of Criminal Appeals' 2021 ruling in *State v. Stephens*.
6. Ask the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to refer the Giga Texas, Robstown, Boring Company and Starbase matters for civil suits under Water Code chapter 7, which allows penalties of up to $25,000 per day for each violation.
7. Decide whether to seek quo warranto against Starbase (Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code 66.002) if the office concludes that the city exercises powers the law does not grant. A three-year statute (Local Gov't Code 51.003) makes a city's acts conclusively valid when no suit is filed, so if it applies to Starbase's incorporation, the window closes on May 20, 2028.
8. Sue SpaceXAI under the biometric privacy law (Bus. & Com. Code 503.001) if Grok captured Texans' face geometry without consent, as *Padilla v. SpaceXAI Corp.* alleges. The penalty is up to $25,000 for each violation, and the same statute produced the $1.4 billion Meta settlement in July 2024 and part of the $1.375 billion Google settlement in May 2025.
9. Add Tesla's range estimates to the Deceptive Trade Practices Act investigation, on the Reuters reporting that Musk directed the optimistic display and the Justice Department's 2023 subpoena on vehicle range.
10. Take the Securities Commissioner's referrals. The commissioner must send evidence of a criminal securities violation to the district or county attorney with venue, and if that prosecutor neglects or refuses to act, to the Attorney General (Gov't Code 4007.001). Under *State v. Stephens*, the office prosecutes only with the local prosecutor's request, so the referral is the point at which the office can offer that help.
11. Examine the Musk Foundation and The Foundation, the two Austin charities that share a post office box, under the office's charitable-trust authority. Bus. Orgs. Code 12.151 lets the office inspect any Texas entity's records and investigate their conduct, and Property Code 123.005 gives Travis County venue for the office's suit alleging a breach of fiduciary duty by a charity's managers.

Governor

1. Release the governor's office communications with Musk and his companies that no law makes confidential (Gov't Code 552.007), beginning with the more than 1,000 pages Judge Catherine Mauzy ordered Abbott to let Hinojosa review.
2. Fill the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality seat whose term ends Aug. 31, 2027 (Water Code 5.056) and the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles board seats whose terms expire Feb. 1, 2027 (Transp. Code 1001.022). A governor cannot remove a predecessor's appointees.
3. Review the repayment terms of the $30 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant for Terafab, since Gov't Code 481.078 requires repayment when performance targets are missed, and the Texas Space Commission's grant of up to $7.5 million for SpaceX's Gigabay facility, for which the commission published no repayment terms.
4. Submit the robotaxi and beach-closure bills as emergency matters, which lets the Legislature pass them in the first 60 days of the session (Tex. Const. art. III, sec. 5).

Lieutenant Governor

1. Under the Senate's current rules the presiding officer names committee chairs, refers bills and decides what reaches the floor, and the Republican majority of 19 can rewrite those rules by a simple majority on Jan. 12, 2027. While the rules hold, the lieutenant governor can name a Senate committee with statewide subpoena power to examine the Starlink payment change and the Terafab tax break, and refer the bills in this file to committee in the first weeks of the session.
2. Take up the broadband audit that the outgoing lieutenant governor and the House Speaker ordered in July 2026, which is due before the session.

Legislature

1. Before Nov. 24, 2026, ask the state's public pension systems, including the Teacher Retirement System, whether they sold Twitter shares between May 13, 2022 and Oct. 4, 2022 and filed claims in the Twitter shareholder case.
2. Create a general investigating committee, which can subpoena witnesses and records statewide (Gov't Code 301.024), to examine the state benefits to Musk's companies set out in this file, starting with the Starlink payment change and the Terafab tax breaks. The House, where Democrats hold the majority, can create one by House resolution without the Senate. In 2024 a House committee formed the same way found that a decayed Xcel Energy power pole sparked the largest wildfire in state history.
3. Amend the robotaxi law (Transp. Code ch. 545, subch. J) to require operators to report crashes and remote-operator driving to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. Let the department suspend an operator on a public-safety finding short of serious bodily injury, and end automatic reinstatement after 60 days.

4. Repeal the Starbase closure power in Gov't Code 482.107(a)(8), or restore county consent and General Land Office limits on launch closures.
5. Repeal Senate Bill 29's 3% threshold for derivative suits (Bus. Orgs. Code 21.552(a)(3)) or lower it.
6. Amend the AI law's ban (Bus. & Com. Code 552.057) to reach systems built or distributed knowingly or recklessly, and drop the cure period for sexual images of children.
7. Require Texas Commission on Environmental Quality discharge permits for battery and lithium plants to include monitoring for heavy metals, which the Robstown permit lacks.
8. Take up the broadband audit that Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and House Speaker Dustin Burrows ordered, which is due before the session.

District and county attorneys

1. The Cameron County District Attorney can review the May 15, 2026 death at the Starfactory. A corporation can be convicted of a felony only if their board or a high managerial agent authorized or recklessly tolerated the conduct (Penal Code 7.22), and an entity's fine for a felony that causes death can reach $50,000 or double the gain or loss (Penal Code 12.51).
2. The Bastrop County and Cameron County district attorneys, whose counties hold the headquarters of X and SpaceX, can review Grok's production and distribution of sexual deepfakes and AI-generated sexual images of children under Penal Code 21.165 and 43.235.
3. County attorneys in Travis, Bastrop, Cameron and Nueces counties can sue under Water Code 7.351 for violations at Musk sites in their counties after 90 days' written notice to the Attorney General and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. A county's penalty claim is barred if either agency acts first on a noticed violation (Water Code 7.3511), and Harris County won a $900,000 settlement from Intercontinental Terminals Co. this way after the 2019 Deer Park fire.
4. The Cameron County District Attorney can review whether Starbase's meeting notices, posted on a bulletin board on SpaceX property, meet the Open Meetings Act, and can petition for quo warranto on the same terms as the Attorney General. Under the Open Beaches Act the county's prosecutors must sue over a violation, at a civil penalty of $50 to $2,000 a day (Nat. Res. Code 61.018).
5. The Travis County District Attorney can review Musk's use of Tesla's property under Penal Code 32.45, misapplication of fiduciary property: the 12,000 Nvidia processors redirected from Tesla to X in December 2023 and the glass Tesla ordered in 2022 for the building planned for Musk near the Austin headquarters. The offense is a first-degree felony at $300,000 or more, the limit is seven years, and the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission subpoenaed Tesla's records on both matters in 2023.
6. A district attorney can charge a knowingly false material statement in a document filed under the state's water-quality law (Water Code 7.149) or the Texas Clean Air Act (Water

Code 7.179), punishable for a company by a fine of up to $250,000 and for an individual by a fine of up to $100,000, a year in jail or both. Venue for every offense under that subchapter lies in the county of the violation or in Travis County (Water Code 7.189), so the Travis County District Attorney can prosecute the Giga Texas, Robstown, Starbase and Boring Company matters. When a peace officer refers a permit holder's violation, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has 45 days to decide whether civil remedies are adequate; a finding that they are bars the prosecution, and silence for 45 days clears it (Water Code 7.203).

Musk personally

1. Any district attorney with venue can charge Musk for conduct he performed in a company's name or for soliciting, encouraging, directing or aiding a company's offense.
2. District attorneys and the State Securities Board can review Musk's statements to investors as fraud in connection with a securities sale, a first-degree felony at $100,000 or more with a five-year limit. The window for the May 2022 Twitter posts closes on May 13, 2027 and May 17, 2027, and the window for his Twitter share purchases while his stake was undisclosed closes on April 4, 2027.
3. The Travis County District Attorney can review Musk's redirection of Tesla's Nvidia processors to X and Tesla's spending on the glass building planned for him under Penal Code 32.45, misapplication of fiduciary property, until December 2030 for the processors.
4. The Texas Rangers' Public Integrity Unit can investigate whether any state officer acted under an express agreement tied to a contribution, and a district attorney can charge the person who offered the benefit.
5. The Attorney General can name Musk personally in a Deceptive Trade Practices Act suit for the misrepresentations he made himself.

Agencies and local governments

1. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality can review the Giga Texas site's full compliance history before deciding Tesla's air-permit amendment, and the commission can pull their file on the pollution the Wall Street Journal reported in November 2024.
2. The same commission can add metals and lithium monitoring to the Robstown refinery's discharge permit.
3. The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles can obtain Tesla's sworn answers to NHTSA's Cybercab audit and check them against the robotaxi law's federal-standards requirement, and can review the authorization file for Tesla Robotaxi, LLC.
4. The Texas Space Commission can revoke or modify Order 2025-01 by written notice and require Starbase to produce their closure records.
5. The General Land Office, which Land Commissioner-elect Benjamin Flores takes over in January 2027, can review the office's December 2025 certification of Starbase's beach access plan, and the commissioner can ask the Attorney General to sue over any

closure of Boca Chica Beach that exceeds the authority the 2025 law granted (Nat. Res. Code 61.018).

6. The Comptroller's Broadband Development Office can keep Starlink's up-front payments frozen until the audit is complete.
7. The Travis County Commissioners Court can finish their review of Tesla's 2023 through 2025 compliance reports, including the agreement's injury and death reporting and the unbuilt Tesla Road.
8. The State Securities Board can review Musk's Twitter share purchases and posts and his Tesla statements to investors, and the Securities Commissioner must send evidence of a criminal violation to the prosecutor with venue.

Deadlines

Date	What happens	Matter	Who can act
Nov. 15, 2026	Six months after the Starfactory death, the federal deadline for OSHA citations on violations from that day	SpaceX worker death	OSHA; Cameron County District Attorney
Nov. 24, 2026	Claims due in the Twitter shareholder case	State pension funds	Legislature; pension systems
Before Jan. 12, 2027	Broadband audit due	Starlink payments	Legislature; Comptroller
Jan. 12, 2027	The 90th Legislature convenes	The bills listed above	Legislature
Jan. 19, 2027	The new governor takes office	Records, appointments, grants and emergency bills	Governor
Feb. 1, 2027	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles board terms expire	Robotaxi oversight	Governor
April 4, 2027	Five years after Musk's last Twitter share purchase	Musk's purchases while his stake was undisclosed	District attorneys; State Securities Board

Date	What happens	Matter	Who can act
	before he disclosed his stake		
May 13, 2027	Five years after Musk's May 13, 2022 Twitter post, the limit for a Texas Securities Act fraud indictment; the May 17, 2022 post follows on May 17, 2027	Musk's statements to Twitter investors	District attorneys; State Securities Board
Aug. 31, 2027	A Texas Commission on Environmental Quality term ends	Permits and enforcement	Governor
May 20, 2028	Three years after Starbase incorporated	Quo warranto window, if Local Gov't Code 51.003 applies	Attorney General; Cameron County District Attorney
Late December 2028	Three years after Grok's images from late December 2025, with January 2026 images following in January 2029	Offenses under Penal Code 21.165 and 43.235	District attorneys
May 2029	Three years after Musk's $500,000 gift to Abbott's campaign	Bribery under Penal Code 36.02, if an express agreement is shown	District attorneys; Texas Rangers' Public Integrity Unit
May 15, 2029	Three years after the Starfactory death, the limit for criminally negligent homicide; manslaughter has none	SpaceX worker death	Cameron County District Attorney
2029	Seven years after Tesla ordered the	Misapplication of Tesla's property, Penal Code 32.45	Travis County District Attorney

Date	What happens	Matter	Who can act
	glass for Project 42 in 2022		
December 2030	Seven years after the December 2023 redirection of Tesla's Nvidia processors to X	Misapplication of Tesla's property, Penal Code 32.45	Travis County District Attorney

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- sold $7.53 billion of Tesla stock in 2022: https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/musk-accused-of-7-5-billion-of-insider-trades-in-investor-suit
- restored Musk's 2018 pay package on Dec. 19, 2025: https://static.blbglaw.com/docs/2025-12-19%20TESLA%20%E2%80%93%20DE%20Supreme%20Court%20Decision.pdf
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- "Mr. Musk has considerable means and spends at least forty percent of his time outside his chosen forum": https://thehill.com/policy/technology/5536737-elon-musk-sec-lawsuit-move-attempt-denied/amp
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- every statewide executive office on the ballot: https://www.yahoo.com/news/politics/articles/republican-lost-every-statewide-race-153200476.html
- called 76 of the 150 Texas House seats for Democrats: https://www.cbsnews.com/texas/news/texas-democrats-flip-state-house-2026-midterm-election-results/
- a simple majority of senators can rewrite: https://www.texastribune.org/2026/11/05/texas-senate-republican-majority-lieutenant-governor-powers/
- $500,000 in May 2026: https://www.click2houston.com/news/texas/2026/10/19/greg-abbott-raked-in-9-million-from-data-center-related-donors-as-he-called-for-regulations/
- $5 million in the weeks before the election: https://www.politico.com/news/2026/10/27/abbott-taps-tech-cash-for-closing-push-in-texas-governors-race-01136878
- $250,000 to House Speaker Dustin Burrows: https://www.click2houston.com/news/texas/2026/10/19/greg-abbott-raked-in-9-million-from-data-center-related-donors-as-he-called-for-regulations/
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- his departure in late May 2025: https://abc7.com/post/elon-musk-is-leaving-trump-administration-criticizing-presidents-big-beautiful-bill/16580917/
- Musk likely violated the Appointments Clause: https://www.cbsnews.com/news/judge-finds-doges-usaid-shutdown-likely-unconstitutional/
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- "potentially compromising the security of over 300 million Americans": https://time.com/7312556/doge-social-security-data-whistleblower-complaint/
- "shared social security data without the knowledge of agency officials and violated security protocols": https://larson.house.gov/media-center/in-the-news/doj-filing-reveals-doge-shared-social-security-data-unauthorized-server
- "There is no 'prize' to be won": https://inquirer.com/politics/larry-krasner-lawsuit-elon-musk-hearing-20241104.html
- $1 million payments to voters: https://wpr.org/news/wisconsin-appeals-court-wont-stop-elon-musk-payments-voters-attorney-general-josh-kaul

What the federal government dropped

- at least 65 actual or potential federal actions: https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025-04-27-Minority-Staff-Memorandum-Elon-Musk-Conflicts.pdf
- $2.37 billion in potential liability: https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/blumenthal-exposes-billions-in-legal-penalties-and-fines-elon-musk-stands-to-avoid-due-to-government-power-grab

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- Smart Summon after 159 incidents and 97 crashes (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration defect investigations of Tesla): https://electrek.co/2026/04/06/nhtsa-closes-tesla-smart-summon-investigation-159-incidents/
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- subpoenas and requests for information (Justice Department criminal investigation of Tesla's Autopilot and Full Self-Driving claims): https://www.tipranks.com/news/tesla-nasdaqtsla-reveals-subpoenas-from-federal-agencies
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- "reopened an investigation into Neuralink" (SEC inquiry into Neuralink's statements about their implant's safety): https://www.pcrm.org/news/news-releases/sec-reopens-investigation-elon-musks-neuralink-likely-launched-medical-ethics
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What Texas can do

- civil investigative demand under Bus. & Com. Code 17.61: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._bus._and_com._code_section_17.61

- Bus. & Com. Code 17.47: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._bus._and_com._code_section_17.47
- from $80,000 to $200,000 per uncurable violation: https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/html/HB00149F.htm
- within 72 hours of a victim's request: https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/analysis/html/SB00441F.htm
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- Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code 129B.006: https://law.justia.com/codes/texas/civil-practice-and-remedies-code/title-6/chapter-129b/section-129b-006/
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- penalties of up to $25,000 per day: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_7.102
- Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code 66.002: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._civ._practice_and_remedies_code_section_66.002
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- Bus. & Com. Code 503.001: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._bus._and_com._code_section_503.001
- $1.4 billion Meta settlement: https://hunton.com/privacy-and-information-security-law/meta-settles-texas-biometric-data-lawsuit-for-record-1-4-billion
- send evidence of a criminal securities violation to the district or county attorney: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._gov't_code_section_4007.001
- Bus. Orgs. Code 12.151: https://tcss.legis.texas.gov/resources/BO/htm/BO.12.htm
- Property Code 123.005: https://tcss.legis.texas.gov/resources/PR/htm/PR.123.htm
- Gov't Code 552.007: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._gov't_code_section_552.007
- Water Code 5.056: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_5.056
- Transp. Code 1001.022: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._transp._code_section_1001.022
- Gov't Code 481.078: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._gov't_code_section_481.078
- up to $7.5 million for SpaceX's Gigabay facility: https://space.texas.gov/upload/file/SpaceX-LBB-Grant-Award-Notice-Aug2025.pdf
- rewrite those rules by a simple majority: https://www.texastribune.org/2026/11/05/texas-senate-republican-majority-lieutenant-governor-powers/
- statewide subpoena power: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._gov't_code_section_301.024
- Gov't Code 301.024: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._gov't_code_section_301.024
- a decayed Xcel Energy power pole sparked: https://www.tpr.org/news/2024-05-02/decayed-power-pole-sparked-the-largest-wildfire-in-state-history-texas-house-committee-confirms

- Transp. Code ch. 545, subch. J: https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/html/SB02807F.htm
- Gov't Code 482.107(a)(8): https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB05246F.pdf
- Bus. Orgs. Code 21.552(a)(3): https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/89R/billtext/html/SB00029F.htm
- Penal Code 7.22: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._penal_code_section_7.22
- Penal Code 12.51: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._penal_code_section_12.51
- Water Code 7.351: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_7.351
- Water Code 7.3511: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_7.3511
- a $900,000 settlement from Intercontinental Terminals Co.: https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2021/04/27/harris-county-attorney-wins-900000-settlement-from-2019-itc-fire-in-deer-park
- meet the Open Meetings Act: https://www.ktsm.com/news/starbase-may-be-violating-the-texas-open-meetings-act-attorney-says/amp/
- must sue over a violation: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._nat._resources_code_section_61.018
- Penal Code 32.45: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._penal_code_section_32.45
- Water Code 7.149: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_7.149
- Water Code 7.179: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_7.179
- a fine of up to $100,000, a year in jail or both: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_7.187
- or in Travis County: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_7.189
- 45 days to decide: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._water_code_section_7.203
- conduct he performed in a company's name: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._penal_code_section_7.23
- soliciting, encouraging, directing or aiding a company's offense: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._penal_code_section_7.02
- fraud in connection with a securities sale: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._gov't_code_section_4007.203
- an express agreement tied to a contribution: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._penal_code_section_36.02
- the misrepresentations he made himself: https://caselaw.findlaw.com/summary/opinion/tx-supreme-court/2002/11/06/113190.html
- ask the Attorney General to sue: https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex._nat._resources_code_section_61.018