

Musk, Ramaswamy eyeing federal remote work policies to help slash \$2T from budget

The billionaire and Ramaswamy met with Congress members on the Hill.

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Work from home policies came under fire from X and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, as he and Republican businessman Vivek Ramaswamy took their plans to reduce government waste to the floors of Congress Thursday.

The businessmen, who were selected by President-elect Donald Trump to lead an outside advisory board called the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), attended several closed-door meetings with GOP senators and House members to sell their plans to cut as much as \$2 trillion from the federal budget of what they called waste.

"I think we should make sure we spend the public's money well," Musk told reporters between the meetings.



Tesla CEO Elon Musk, Co-Chair of the newly announced Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), arrives on Capitol Hill on Dec. 05, 2024 in Washington, D.C.

Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images

Musk posted on his social media platform X from inside the Capitol about what he and Ramaswamy say is a key issue for DOGE: The number of federal employees working from home.

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The Federal Office of Management and Budget [released a report](#) in August that found "as of May 2024, approximately 50% of federal workers worked every day in roles that are not eligible for telework, including those who work onsite providing healthcare to our veterans, inspecting our food supply, and managing Federal natural resources."

Musk shared a new report from Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, the chair of the Senate DOGE caucus, which claimed only 6% of federal workers show up in person to work on a full-time basis. Many others work from home part-time, and roughly one-third work from home full-time, according to the report.

"If you exclude security guards & maintenance personnel, the number of government workers who show up in person and do 40 hours of work a week is closer to 1%! Almost no one," Musk posted in response to the report.

Ernst's report includes several anecdotes and alleged social media posts about federal employees who worked from home, including a Department of Veterans Affairs manager who posted a photo of himself working from a bathtub. Ernst's team included the photo in their report.

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The OMB report found that "telework-eligible personnel spent approximately 60% of regular, working hours in person, at agency-assigned job sites."



Businessman Vivek Ramaswamy, Co-Chair of the newly announced Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), arrives on Capitol Hill on Dec. 05, 2024 in Washington, D.C.

Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

Musk has been a staunch opponent of work-from-home policies and removed such policies from his businesses, including X. He threatened layoffs for X employees who did not comply with his policy, which instructed any special requests for remote work needed to be reviewed by him before approval.

House Speaker Mike Johnson was slated to hold a news conference with Musk and Ramaswamy about the meetings later Thursday afternoon.

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