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Musk's New Party Faces Uphill Battle in US Politics

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Elon Musk's recent decision to launch the America Party underscores his determination to challenge the entrenched two-party system in the United States, but experts warn that his ambitious effort is likely to face steep, perhaps insurmountable, obstacles despite his vast fortune.

Musk, the billionaire founder of Tesla and Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX), announced the formation of the America Party last weekend, calling it a necessary response to what he described as decades of reckless spending and corruption by both major parties. In a pointed critique of former President Donald Trump's latest budget bill dubbed the "Big, Beautiful Bill," Musk denounced the legislation as "disgusting," arguing it

would add trillions of dollars to the national debt and betray the taxpayers footing the bill. His announcement marked a sharp break from Trump, although there is no public record or credible report confirming that Musk contributed nearly 300 million United States dollars to Trump's re-election campaign.

Yet while Musk has the resources to fund a third-party movement, history shows that money alone is rarely enough to upend the Democratic and Republican dominance. David Smith, Associate Professor in American Politics and Foreign Policy at the United States Studies Centre, stressed that even well-funded efforts have repeatedly failed to gain traction.

"Before we even think about the peculiarities of Elon, we just need to remember how hard it is for any third party to break into American politics," Smith said in an interview. He noted that decades of structural barriers, from restrictive ballot access laws to the winner-takes-all electoral system, have discouraged viable alternatives and left voters feeling they have no practical option outside the established parties.

Musk's criticism of the federal government's spending has resonated among some fiscal conservatives frustrated by what they see as a bipartisan addiction to debt. The America Party's stated goal is to restore financial accountability, protect individual liberties, and reduce Washington's influence over daily life. However, without a coalition of elected officials, state-level infrastructure, or grassroots organisation, the party's prospects remain tenuous at best.

Despite the odds, Musk's move could still have a significant impact, especially if the America Party siphons votes away from either major party in closely contested states. Political observers note that in an era of deep polarisation and voter dissatisfaction, even symbolic campaigns can sway outcomes. Whether Musk's latest venture will amount to more than a footnote in American politics or become a disruptive force remains to be seen.

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