

Elon Musk sells Tesla stock worth \$5bn after promising to abide by Twitter poll

Elon Musk has sold shares in his company worth \$5bn (£3.73bn) after promising to abide by a Twitter poll.

The Tesla chief executive had asked his followers whether he should sell 10% of his holdings and [57.9% of the voters supported the sale](#).

Musk said: “I was prepared to accept either outcome.”

The money generated from the sales – disclosed in two regulatory filings late on Wednesday – will cover tax obligations for stock options granted to [Musk](#) in September.

I will abide by the results of this poll, whichever way it goes

– *Elon Musk (@elonmusk)* [November 6, 2021](#)

He exercised options to buy just over 2.1 million shares for \$6.24 (£4.66). On Wednesday, the company’s stock closed at \$1,067.95 dollars (£796.72) per share.

Advertisement

In his first sale since 2016, he sold 3.6 million Tesla shares, worth around \$4bn (£2.98bn), and a further 934,000 shares worth \$1.1bn (£820m).

More on Elon Musk



Elon Musk 'prepared to accept either outcome' after Twitter poll tells him to sell 10% of Tesla stock



Elon Musk asks Twitter followers if he should sell 10% of Tesla stock



Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin loses legal fight to take part in NASA moon landings

Related Topics:

- [Elon Musk](#)
- [Tesla](#)
- [United States](#)

It equates to around 3% of his total holdings in the electric vehicle manufacturer.

The sale follows a proposal by Democrat US senators to tax

billionaires' stocks and other tradeable assets and end a loophole that has allowed them to defer capital gains taxes.

After the transactions, Musk – the world's richest billionaire – still owns around 170 million Tesla shares.

A tenth of his Tesla holdings is worth around \$20bn (£14.92bn). [Tuesday's poll caused a sell-off of the stock](#) on Monday and Tuesday.

The stock has risen by 4.3% but remains down 12.6% for the week.

Follow the Daily podcast on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Spreaker](#).

Wedbush analyst Daniel Ives said it appears Musk will start selling shares as the year ends.

“The question will be for investors if he sells his full 10% ownership stake over the coming months or is it done piece-by-piece during 2022,” he said.

Including stock options, the tycoon owns a 23% stake in Tesla – which, despite producing far fewer vehicles than [conventional rivals](#) – is the world's most valuable car company by market capitalisation.



Image:

He still owns 170 million Tesla shares

It [topped \\$1trn](#) last month, becoming the fifth company to do so after Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, and Google owner Alphabet.

The Twitter poll came after Musk [tweeted in 2018 that he had "funding secured"](#) to possibly take Tesla private in a \$72bn deal.