Building tomorrow: Elon Musk and the rise of We, Robot

BY GARRETT FOGLE

Graphic by Garret Fogle

Tesla introduced new self-sufficient inventions in mid-October. The event was named "We, Robot" and displayed the Robovan, Robotaxi and Optimus. These innovations have been released in the hope of making a safer and more efficient world. The Robovan, and Robotaxi are a brand-new way of looking at transportation in a way the world has never seen before. The Tesla Bot, other known as Optimus, helps individuals with daily tasks.

Musk described the future of autonomous technology with an "elevator" analogy. Elevators used to have a person manually controlling them, and now we just use a button, and we don't even think about it. He believes that the Robotaxi and Robovan will be the same way on the road, making them more efficient with less traffic and overall safer streets due to their advanced technology. Tesla AI technology has millions of experiences that the average human would never get driving in their lifetime, making the AI technology much safer than a human alone. Elon Musk states, "The future should look like the future" which is the driving vision behind his futuristic models, others may say they look odd or weird.

Robotaxis, also known as Cybercabs, are autonomous vehicles designed to improve time efficiency with vehicles. The average U.S. citizen spends around 5-10 hours per week driving depending on region and their commute lengths. There is a total of 168 hours in a week, showing that most of the week the vehicles are doing nothing. The purpose of Robotaxis is that autonomous cars can be out driving like an uber while the owner is at work during the week. This can lower the traffic in large cities with ride-sharing allowing multiple passengers going in the similar direction to share a vehicle just like an elevator.

Robovans are similar to robotaxis but are different in size allowing up to 20 passengers. The Robovan can carry passengers, equipment, or any large cargo. It will also lower the need for large parking garages and areas around heavily populated areas. This could allow for more green spaces and nature parks in heavily condensed areas like airports, arenas, cities, etc.

Lastly, Optimus is a human-like (or anthropomorphic) robot designed to help humans in daily tasks like cleaning, errands, and other repetitive duties. Optimus is not a brand-new invention like the Robo vehicles but is part of Tesla's program "We, Robot." Optimus was first unveiled in 2021 and uses the same technology as autonomous vehicles. Musk's vision with Optimus is to get rid of dangerous activities for humans and to coexist with us. He believes in long term influence globally with the economy by the robot lowering labor costs. In the big picture, the introduction of "We, Robot" offers a glimpse into the future of technology and how it will work side by side with humans.

Trump Triumphs Alongside Republican Sweep

BY J1 REPORTER COLE ROGGE

Graphic by Drew Johnson

On November 5, Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris squared off in what was anticipated to be a very narrow race that could truly go either way. However, as it got later into election night, it became glaringly obvious that one candidate was not only dominating in their traditional states, but also leading in all of the key battleground states. According to Fox News, Trump gained in all seven battleground states including 1.8 points in Michigan and Pennsylvania, and 1.4 points in Georgia. Trump's most noticeable victory arguably came in states that he didn't even win. In historically Democratic states like New York, Trump gained 6.4 points and also had a 5.5 point gain in New Jersey as compared to the 2020 election. He also posted noticeable gains in states like Illinois, which hasn't voted red since 1988 and Virginia, since 2004. However, Harris did outperform Biden's numbers from 2020 in one state, Utah, where she posted a 0.6 point improvement, Fox News reported. Additionally, the Vice President posted noticeable improvements compared to 2020 in various counties around the country. Harris finished 2-9 points better in multiple counties of swing state Georgia, including Henry, Rockdale and Douglas. In Kaufmann county, just outside of the Dallas suburbs, she posted a six point swing. She also swung several counties in North Carolina, specifically those most impacted by recent Hurricane Helene, where she saw a four point gain in Buncombe, Henderson, and Transylvania counties. Ultimately, this was not enough to win any of these states, and Harris would fall well short of hitting the 270 electoral college votes needed. She would go on to win 19 states and the District of Columbia totaling 226 electoral college votes. Trump won the popular vote by 3.1 million votes, which was surprising to many as he lost the popular vote in 2016 when he still went on to win, showing a noticeable emphasis from voters that many were not happy with the incumbent. Republicans also took full control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, narrowly maintaining the House. Republicans flipped seven seats in the House, while Democrats flipped six, resulting in a net gain of just one seat and a 220-212 Republican advantage, one of the smallest majorities in US history. In the Senate, Republicans flipped four previously Democrat held seats in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Montana. This ultimately gave Republicans a 52-48 advantage and clean sweep of Washington.

2025 DATES TO KNOW

Date	Event
1/20	MLK DAY– NO SCHOOL
1/27–1/31	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
1/31	ALL SCHOOL MASS
2/10	NO SCHOOL
2/21	PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
3/10–3/14	SPRING BREAK