AFR Americans for Financial Reform

Profile of Crypto Billionaire Marc Andreessen—Co-founder Andreessen Horowitz (a16z)

Overview

A handful of crypto billionaires with extreme anti-democratic views stand to profit immensely from passage of the CLARITY Act – the massive deregulatory crypto bill poised for a Senate floor vote this year.

While touting crypto as a tool for financial freedom and inclusion, leading crypto industry figures celebrate anti-democratic ideas and are using crypto to push policies that entrench political and economic power in the hands of a wealthy few. These same crypto billionaires are a core pillar of support for President Trump, effectively enabling the President's own authoritarian agenda. They have donated extensively to fund his campaigns and his vanity projects, played roles in his administration, and in some cases contributed to the profits of his family businesses.

Marc Andreessen is the co-founder of venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz, one of the most wealthy and influential industry voices

Andreessen is at the forefront of crypto industry figures pushing to lock in weak rules that allow crypto firms to maximize insider profits without safeguards for consumers, investors, or financial stability that families and "real economy" businesses need. Andreessen has deep ties to Trump and his policy demands for the CLARITY Act have been echoed by the White House and Senate Republicans.

Andreessen's wealth began with Big Tech and is now deeply tied to crypto. Andreessen's net worth is estimated at $1.9 billion, according to *Forbes.* He was first known as co-creator of the internet browser Netscape, and an early investor in Facebook. His firm Andreessen Horowitz now boasts of managing over $100 billion in investment capital. In 2018, his firm launched a $300 million crypto fund called a16z, which has since grown to billions in managed investments.

Andreessen and his firm have been critically important backers of crypto ventures and tech startups. As of 2024, Andreessen's firm has invested more than $7 billion in crypto assets and firms, making it one the largest venture capital investors in crypto. a16z has stakes in major crypto firms like Coinbase, Solana, and Uniswap, and many more. These investments in platforms often include preferential, early access to the platform's emerging crypto tokens that generate outside rewards and create an incentive for firms like a16z to push crypto products to market quickly – benefiting wealthy crypto investors (“whales”) at the expense of retail investors (“krill”).

Andreessen Horowitz dominates the crypto industry’s aggressive political spending.

Taken together, the political spending by Andreessen, his partner Horowitz, and their firm adds up to more than **$115 million** in the 2026 election cycle thus far – more than any other single crypto donor and double their $63 million in contributions for the 2024 cycle. In 2024, Andreessen Horowitz’s $44 million gift to Fairshake (the largest crypto SuperPAC) was about **one-fourth** of the SuperPAC’s total raised funds.

Andreessen’s recent political spending and activity show a pattern of deep alignment with and consistent giving to the Republican Party and Trump’s MAGA movement. Though they have also given money to Democrats, Andreessen and Horowitz’s biggest and most impactful spending has been to Republicans and to Trump affiliated entities. Andreessen and Horowitz, along with their firm, donated about $9.8 million to Republican candidates and committees in 2024, and to-date have also donated $12 million to Trump’s super PAC MAGA Inc. Andreessen gave an additional $4.5 million to the Trump-affiliated Right for America PAC that cycle as well.

More recently, in 2026 an Andreessen-controlled trust donated $900,000 to the Republican National Committee, and Andreessen with Horowitz donated a combined $25 million to the Innovation Council, an entity that supports the president’s hands-off tech policies.

Andreessen endorsed Trump in 2024 in part because of his “flat-out blanket endorsement of the entire [crypto] space.” He celebrated Trump’s victory on his podcast, saying “It felt like a boot off the throat” and that “Every morning I wake up happier than the day before.”

After Trump’s election, Andreessen spent half his time at Mar a Lago in the lead up to the inauguration helping with the transition, including recommending personnel for the second Trump administration. He attended the King Charles state dinner and the dinner celebrating paving over the White House Rose Garden, and was named to a White House Tech Council.

Andreessen aligns with plutocrats, harbors anti-democratic views and has promoted the idea of a world led by techno overlords.

Andreessen has aligned himself with right-wing billionaires like Elon Musk and Peter Thiel. He launched a private chat group of hardline right-wing intellectuals like Tucker Carlson to discuss messaging and strategy on their shared political objectives. He told one right-wing podcaster that "The iron law of oligarchy basically says democracy is fake. There's always a ruling class. There's always a ruling elite structurally."

Andreessen's 2023 unregulated free-market Techno-Optimist Manifesto promotes a view of the world led by techno supermen overlords, opposes any regulations (including risk management, tech safety, tech ethics, and the precautionary principle) over technology, and praises some fascist, anti-democratic, hard-right and racist thinkers.

Andreessen expresses contempt for working and middle-class people and for the goal of widely shared prosperity. Andreessen has been skeptical of the more broadly shared prosperity of the post-WWII era, saying that the phenomenon of people with a high-school education earning higher wages (which provided a secure foundation for middle-class families) was an "artifact" and that the "idea of the middle class itself is a myth." Andreessen went on to say "That experiment has been run, and it was a catastrophic failure."

According to an *American Prospect* columnist writing about comments he heard Andreessen make at a party hosted at Andreessen's home, Andreessen has also said of people in small towns in America that he was "glad there's OxyContin and video games to keep those people quiet."

Andreessen also appears to support an anti-worker, pro-pollution agenda, saying: "I'm not saying we should have sweatshops in the US and I'm not saying we should have no environmental regulations, but it is harder to do business in most states in the US than it is to do business in a lot of places around the world."

Andreessen holds hostile views towards efforts to promote racial diversity and support immigrants. He has claimed that the combination of immigration and racial diversity initiatives have been "politically lethal" and have "systematically cut most of the children of the Trump voter base out of any realistic prospect of access to higher education and corporate America." He contended that the civil rights protests over George Floyd's murder undercut any support for people of color and that "now my people are furious and not going to take it anymore" – my people being a reference to white Americans with backgrounds similar to Andreessen's.

Andreessen championed President Trump and Elon Musk's attack on government agencies, workers, and their missions. He said on the Joe Rogan podcast that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) exists to "terrorize finance, terrorize financial institutions, prevent fintech, prevent new competition, new startups that want to compete with the big banks." He backed and advised the Elon Musk DOGE attack on the federal government and claimed he was an "unpaid intern" at DOGE. In fact, multiple a16z-backed fintech firms, such as LendUp Loans, Synapse, EarnIn and Wise, have faced CFPB regulatory actions, fines and penalties due to these firms' alleged use of unfair junk fees, deceptive practices and mismanagement.

A vote for CLARITY is a vote to enrich these oligarchs still further and to advance their agenda.

The CLARITY Act was drafted largely by and for the crypto industry and its leaders, including Armstrong. They and the President are doing everything they can to make it become law. If it does, it will make these crypto billionaires even richer and more powerful, fueling their anti-democratic objectives, while funneling even more wealth to Trump allies and to other supporters of a less democratic America.