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US official warns of risks posed by heavy electric vehicles

Story by By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer • Yester...

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DETROIT (AP) — The head of the National Transportation Safety Board expressed concern Wednesday about the safety risks that heavy electric vehicles pose if they collide with lighter vehicles.



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Windsor Locks, Conn. On Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023, Homendy, the chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board, said she is concerned about the risk that heavy electric vehicles pose if they collide with lighter vehicles. (AP Photo/Chris Ehmann, File) The Associated Press

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The official, Jennifer Homendy, raised the issue in a speech in Washington to the Transportation Research Board. She noted, by way of example, that an electric GMC Hummer weighs about 9,000 pounds (4,000 kilograms), with a battery pack that alone is 2,900 pounds (1,300 kilograms) – roughly the entire weight of a typical Honda Civic.

“I’m concerned about the increased risk of severe injury and death for all road users from heavier curb weights and increasing size, power, and performance of vehicles on our roads, including electric vehicles,” Homendy said in remarks prepared for the group.

The extra weight that EVs typically carry stems from the outsize mass of their batteries. To achieve 300 or more miles (480 or more kilometers) of range per charge from an EV, batteries have to weigh thousands of pounds.

Some battery chemistries being developed have the potential to pack more energy into less mass. But for now, there’s a mismatch in weight between EVs and smaller internal combustion vehicles. EVs also deliver instant power to their wheels, making them accelerate faster in most cases than most gas-powered cars, trucks and SUVs.

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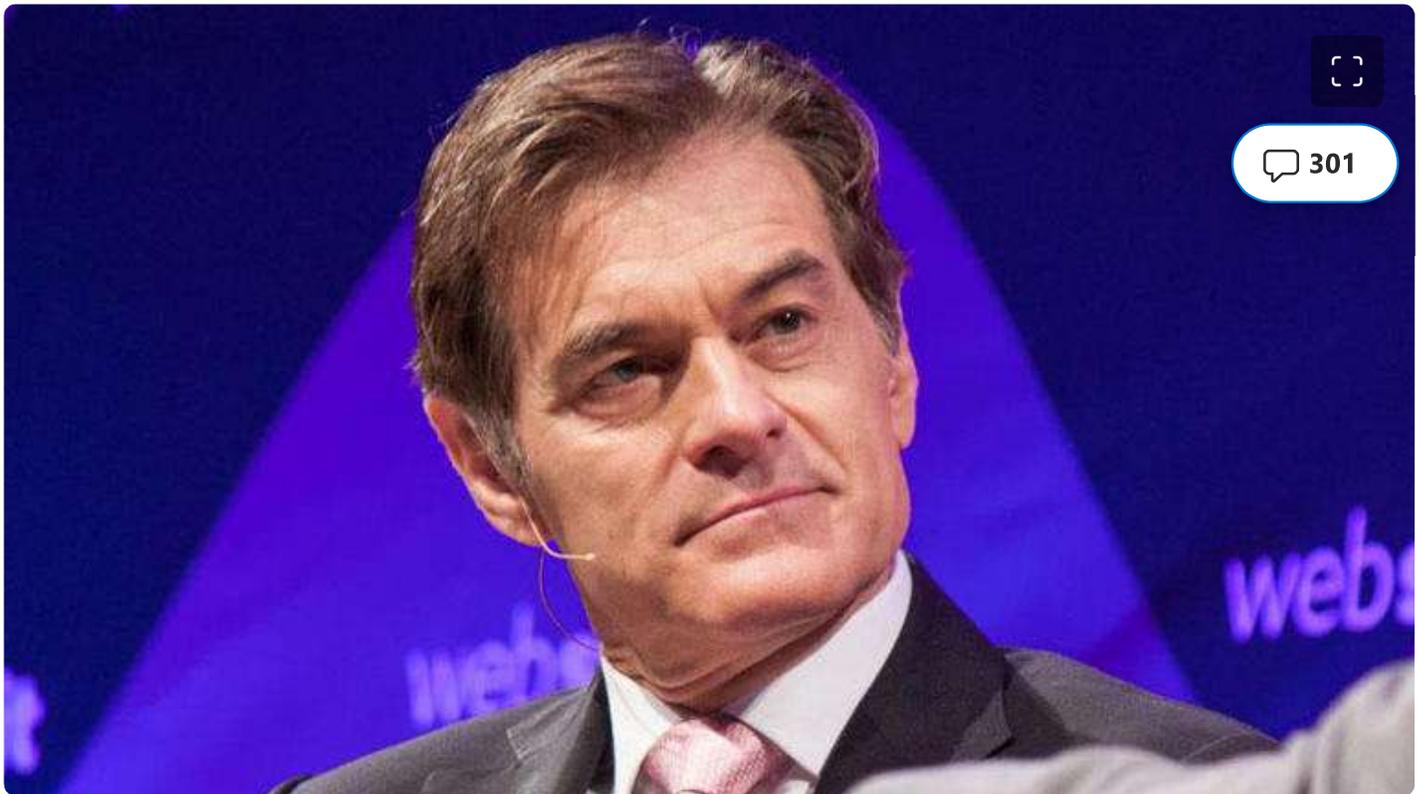
Dr. Oz's failed Senate campaign is \$27 million in debt — and he owes most of it to himself: report

Story by Matthew Chapman • Yesterday 3:32 PM

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On Wednesday, incoming Raw Story editor-in-chief Dave Levinthal [flagged](#) a previously-unreported statistic in Federal Election Commission campaign filings for Dr. Mehmet Oz, the Trump-backed celebrity TV host who ran unsuccessfully for Senate in Pennsylvania last year.

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"Mehmet Oz ended 2022 with his U.S. Senate campaign committee more than \$27 million (!) in debt, per a new FEC filing," Levinthal reported on Twitter. Furthermore, he added, "Most of the money is owed to Oz himself, and it's unlikely Oz will recoup much (or any) of it."

Oz's campaign [owes](#) another \$282,000 to his digital fundraising firm, according to documents.

Candidate for office are allowed to loan money to their own campaigns if they have the personal wealth to do so. Furthermore, a recent [Supreme Court decision](#) in a challenge by Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) struck down a law that limited the amount of money candidates could raise from individual donors to repay campaign debt after an election is over. However, it is unclear who would be willing to make such a contribution.

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Oz narrowly won a bitterly contested primary field with the endorsement of former President Donald Trump, to challenge Democratic then-Lieutenant Gov. John Fetterman, who ran a campaign that was complicated when he suffered a stroke at the end of the primary and had to spend some of the general election season [recovering](#).

His campaign was frequently mocked for comments and stunts considered to be out of touch, like a video of himself [shopping for the ingredients for a fancy vegetable platter](#) and campaigning about the price – and faced constant questions about his residency, he moved to Pennsylvania after spending years living in, and still owning luxury properties in New Jersey. Even Trump himself [reportedly raged](#) in private about how "awful" his chosen candidate was doing.

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