al image by Trevor Jones

The first, but not the last. Observers in the space believe in future elections, as digital currencies gain mainstream traction, wider adoption and prominence within larger debates over U.S. monetary policy and financial regulation, candidates with platforms like Yang's will be the rule rather than the exception.

"Yang's campaign was a historical moment for cryptocurrency and blockchain that will lead the way for more candidates to come forward championing the technology," said Craig Cobb, host of "The Trader Cobb Crypto Podcast." "With a larger millennial public coming to voting age, we will see an ongoing push at all levels of politics to advance the technology that this demographic has embraced."

Related: "A Tech Bro Like Us," CoinDesk's "Most Influential" Profile of Andrew Yang

Meanwhile, Yang has no plans to disappear. As a newly hired regular commentator on CNN, he will continue to have a voice in the national political conversation. It isn't yet clear whether he will be in a position to directly address crypto or related issues on the country's most-watched cable network, or if he'll be asked to comment only on more general political subjects. But he is now one of very few people on CNN's payroll who has a known interest and knowledge on the issue. For years, CNN did not have anyone who could credibly discuss crypto or blockchain. This changed only in 2018, when CNN International hired Julia Chatterly, who now hosts occasional crypto segments, including a recent interview with Ripple CEO Brad Garlinghouse.

On the campaign trail, Yang's absence has created a vacuum that has yet to be filled. When Yang announced that he was suspending his campaign on the night of the New Hampshire primary, many