Juno.cash (Juno Cash) is a **very new Zcash fork** that tries to combine Zcash-level cryptography with Monero-style "no optional privacy, no ASICs, no founders tax" ideology. I'll break it down and then compare it to Monero and Zcash.

---

1. What Juno Cash is

High-level:

- A privacy coin forked from **Zcash**, using Zcash's modern **Orchard + Halo2** zero-knowledge stack.
- **100% of circulating coins must live in the shielded pool** (Orchard). No "normal" transparent addresses for spending.

- **Mining is CPU-only** using **RandomX** (the same general algorithm family as Monero), aiming for egalitarian "pleb mining" and ASIC resistance.

- **No founders' reward / dev tax** built into block rewards.

- New project: code on GitHub, whitepaper published late 2025, small social presence.

Key design ideas from whitepaper + site

- **Mandatory privacy:** all coins exist in Orchard; there are no transparent balances in circulation. This is meant to fix Zcash's problem where only a minority of coins ever enter the shielded pool.
- **Hotel California model:** newly mined coins are created to a transparent coinbase address for supply auditing, then must be moved into the shielded pool and can never leave again.
- **RandomX PoW:** chose Monero's CPU-optimized PoW family to avoid ASIC dominance and aim for decentralised, "at-home" mining.
- **19-year emission schedule** with a slow start to avoid early whales; exact numbers still evolving at time of writing.

It explicitly markets itself as: **"All the good of Zcash, none of the trash"** and positions against Zcash's founders' reward, trusted setups (Sprout/Sapling), ASIC-friendly mining, and mixed transparent/shielded supply. Juno Cash+1

---

2. Comparison snapshot

2.1 Tech / privacy model

Feature	Juno Cash	Monero (XMR)	Zcash (ZEC)
Cryptography	zk-SNARKs (Halo2, Orchard forked from Zcash)	Ring signatures, RingCT, stealth addresses, Bulletproofs	zk-SNARKs (Sprout/Sapling, then Orchard+Halo2)
Default privacy	**Mandatory** – all circulating coins shielded; no transparent spends	**Mandatory** – all txs private by design	**Optional** – transparent, shielded, or mixed txs
Anonymity set	Entire circulating supply by design (if implementation + usage follow spec)	Large, but limited by ring size & usage patterns	Fragmented: shielded pool vs large transparent set; only ~¼ of supply shielded as of 2025
Trusted setup	Avoids older Zcash Sprout/Sapling trusted setup by only using Orchard/Halo2 (no new ceremony)	No trusted setup	Sprout & Sapling required ceremonies; Orchard using Halo2 still rooted in Powers of Tau URS

Takeaway:
Juno and Monero are *privacy-only* chains, but:

- Monero's privacy is based on **ring signatures + stealth addresses** (obfuscation by mixing).
- Juno's is based on **fully encrypted zk-SNARK transfers** inherited from Zcash's newest tech, but unlike Zcash it removes the transparent "escape hatch".

2.2 Consensus, mining, and economics

Aspect	Juno Cash	Monero	Zcash
Consensus	PoW	PoW	PoW
Algorithm	RandomX variant (CPU-focused)	RandomX (CPU-focused)	Equihash (ASIC-dominant in practice)

ASIC resistance	Aims for strong ASIC resistance	Strong ASIC resistance	Weaker; ASICs widely used
Founder/dev reward	**None baked into protocol**; voluntary miner tips only	None; community-funded	Historically 20% “founders’ reward” and now dev fund slice (still ~20% of block rewards)
Emission	19-year schedule; slow start	Tail-emission after main curve (fixed XMR/year forever)	Halving schedule similar to BTC; long history since 2016

Takeaway:
Juno is trying to fuse **Monero’s egalitarian mining + no founders’ reward** with **Zcash’s modern zk-SNARK tech**.

2.3 Ecosystem, maturity, and risk

Juno Cash

- **Very early-stage**: fork launched in 2025; small community, limited infrastructure (wallets, exchanges, tooling still evolving).
- Some integrations starting (e.g., PR to add it to the XMRig miner).
- As of latest info, I don’t see it listed on major tracking sites like CoinGecko/CoinMarketCap as a live, liquid asset – suggesting very thin or no major exchange liquidity yet.
- Whitepaper and code are public, but it hasn’t yet had the years of battle-testing that Monero and Zcash have.

Monero

- Launched 2014; one of the oldest and most scrutinized privacy coins.
- Very mature ecosystem: multiple open-source wallets, hardware wallet support, atomic swaps, payment integrations, large mining and user community.

- Also gets **regulatory heat**: for example, Monero has been delisted from some regulated exchanges like Binance in 2024, and France has moved toward criminalizing anonymization tools like Monero and mixers in some contexts.

Zcash

- Launched 2016; first major zk-SNARK-based privacy coin.
- Larger exchange footprint than Monero in many jurisdictions because privacy is **opt-in** (transparent addresses let exchanges stay compliant more easily).
- Tech has evolved: Sprout → Sapling → Orchard (with Halo2) to improve speed, remove earlier trusted setup assumptions, and support better scalability.
- But **most supply is still not in the shielded pool**, which weakens the practical anonymity set.

Takeaway:

- **Maturity / infrastructure:** Monero > Zcash >> Juno Cash.
- **Liquidity & adoption:** Monero and Zcash are widely traded and integrated; Juno is experimental and niche so far.

---

3. How Juno Cash compares conceptually

3.1 Versus Zcash

What Juno borrows from Zcash

- The **Orchard shielded protocol** and **Halo2** proving system, which give:
    - Constant-size proofs
    - Fast proving/verification
    - No new trusted setup

What Juno changes

1. **Mandatory shielding:**
    - Zcash: user can choose transparent or shielded. In practice, shielded usage is low, so an observer can often spot shielded users more easily.
    - Juno: all coins must live in Orchard once in circulation; the entire monetary base contributes to the anonymity set.
2. **No founders' tax / dev fund:**
    - Zcash diverts ~20% of block rewards to dev funding.
    - Juno removes this and leaves dev funding to voluntary miner donations or external funding.
3. **Mining algorithm:**
    - Zcash: Equihash, now dominated by ASICs.
    - Juno: RandomX, designed to favor general-purpose CPUs and resist ASICs.

Upshot:
From a cypherpunk point of view, Juno is trying to be "what Zcash would look like if privacy wasn't optional and economics weren't skewed by a dev tax or ASIC miners."

3.2 Versus Monero

Similarities

- Both push **“privacy only”**: every transaction is private by design
- Both use **RandomX-style CPU mining** to keep hardware more egalitarian.
- Both reject founders’ rewards.

Differences

- **Tech layer:**
    - Monero: obfuscation via ring signatures, decoy outputs, stealth addresses, RingCT.
    - Juno: full encryption via zk-SNARKs (Orchard/Halo2).
- **Auditability:**
    - Monero: totals are hidden; soundness relies on cryptography + careful design, but you can’t trivially sum total supply from the chain.
    - Juno: coinbase outputs are transparent until they enter the shielded pool, enabling explicit supply audit while still having mandatory privacy for circulation.
- **Maturity & scrutiny:**
    - Monero has had many years of academic and adversarial scrutiny.
    - Juno is new, with fewer eyes on its code, parameters, and economic/game-theoretic behavior.

Upshot:
Juno’s selling point vs Monero is mostly “zk-proof style privacy + explicit provable supply + Zcash-grade cryptography”, but it currently lacks Monero’s battle-tested status and ecosystem.

---

4. Where Juno Cash might fit in the privacy-coin landscape

Potential strengths

- **Maximum anonymity set** if the chain actually gets usage, since *all* value must be shielded.

- **Modern zk stack** (Orchard/Halo2) lets it piggyback on years of ECC/Zcash R&D and audits.

- **Egalitarian PoW and no dev tax** may appeal strongly to miners and decentralization purists.

Risks and unknowns

- **New and experimental:** far less time in the wild than Monero/Zcash. New forks often have undiscovered bugs, network-level attacks, or governance issues.

- **Liquidity / listings:** without significant exchange support, it may be hard to acquire or use at meaningful scale.

- **Regulatory environment:** regulators are increasingly focused on “fully anonymous” coins and may treat a mandatory-privacy zk-coin more like Monero than like Zcash’s current half-transparent model.

---

5. If you’re thinking in practical terms (not financial advice)

If you’re evaluating **Juno.cash vs other privacy coins** for actual use (or just to understand the trade-offs), a sensible mental model is:

- **Monero:**
    - Best-established “fully private” coin.
    - Huge track record, broad tooling.
    - Some regulatory / exchange friction.
- **Zcash:**
    - Technically advanced zk stack, but **optional privacy** and complex UX lead to weaker real-world anonymity.
    - Somewhat easier for regulated exchanges because they can rely on transparent addresses.
- **Juno Cash:**
    - Very new attempt to be “Zcash tech + Monero economics + mandatory privacy.”
    - Interesting design, but you should treat it as an experimental project until it has more time, audits, and adoption behind it.