# Tracking Public Opinion of Trump's Washington

Trump's approval rating on trade improves

By **Eli Yokley** & **Cameron Easley**

Morning Consult is tracking what voters across the country think about how President Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress are governing the United States ahead of the 2026 midterm elections. Each week, we'll update this page with fresh and timely data on all of the major questions facing Washington, including views about the people in charge, the issues dominating the conversation and what is actually breaking through to the electorate.

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Perceptions of Trump's trade handling improve:** As Trump dials back tariffs on some key food imports such as coffee and beef, voters are evenly split on his handling of trade, with 44% approving and 44% disapproving. Those are his best numbers on the topic since late July, and they represent an improvement from two weeks ago, when voters were 4 percentage points more likely to disapprove than approve of his trade handling.
- **But his overall approval rating ticks down**: The share of voters who approve of the president's job performance ticked down from 46% to 45% over the past week while his disapproval rating remained at 52%. Voters remain more likely to say the president is making the imposition of tariffs a "top priority" than lowering prices for consumers, while their overwhelming preference is for him to focus on the latter over the former. **(See more in our policy section below.)**
- **Congressional Democrats' image improves:** Voters are 1 point more likely to view Democrats in Congress favorably than unfavorably, their first positive net favorability rating since April and only their second of 2025. Republicans in Congress, meanwhile, are 5 points underwater.
- **Epstein bill breaks through:** Roughly three-quarters of voters (73%) reported hearing "a lot" or "some" about Trump's signing of the bill compelling the Justice Department to release its files on disgraced financier and convicted sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein, making it the week's most resonant news item by a comfortable margin. Three other Trump-related stories also broke through to a majority of voters: his tacit endorsement of a call to execute some Democrats in Congress, his carve-outs for tariffs on several food imports and his "quiet, piggy" quip toward a Bloomberg News reporter during remarks to the media.

# People

## Trump's approval ratings

Latest

**Voter approval of President Donald Trump's job performance**

Strongly approve
Somewhat approve
Don't know/No opinion
Somewhat disapprove
Strongly disapprove

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Eli Yokley is Morning Consult's U.S. politics analyst. Eli joined Morning Consult in 2016 from Roll Call, where he reported on House and Senate campaigns after five years of covering state-level politics in the Show Me State while studying at the University of Missouri in Columbia, including contributions to The New York Times, Politico and The Daily Beast. Follow him on **X/Twitter** and on **LinkedIn** @eyokley. Interested in connecting with Eli to discuss his analysis or for a media engagement or speaking opportunity? Email **press@morningconsult.com**.

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Cameron Easley is Morning Consult's head of political and economic analysis. He has led Morning Consult's coverage of politics and elections since 2016, and his work has appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Politico, Axios, FiveThirtyEight and on Fox News, CNN and MSNBC. Cameron joined Morning Consult from Roll Call, where he was managing editor. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Follow him on Twitter **@cameron_easley**. Interested in connecting with Cameron to discuss his analysis or for a media engagement or speaking opportunity? Email **press@morningconsult.com**.