

Tracking Public Opinion of Trump's Washington

Post-Venezuela op, Americans aren't rallying around Trump



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. For weekly updates of our generic ballot tracking, go to our page [Tracking the 2026 Midterm Elections](#).

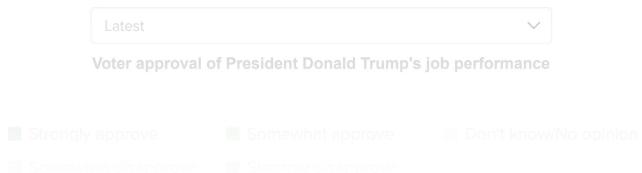
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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Trump's approval rating ticks down:** The president's approval rating sits at 46%, down 1 percentage point from before U.S. forces apprehended Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro during a bombing attack and raid in Caracas early Jan. 3, while 51% of voters disapprove of his job performance, unchanged since just before the operation. Both figures are in line with his average approval ratings since he took office in January (47% approval, 51% disapproval).
- **Foreign policy bump fails to materialize:** Voters remain divided on Trump's handling of foreign policy, with 45% approving and 44% disapproving. That's slightly worse than his 3-point positive net approval rating on the topic in our survey conducted before Maduro's capture. And though national security remains one of Trump's best issues, nor does the operation appear to have boosted sentiment on that topic either: His net approval rating now sits 8 points above water, compared with a 9-point margin before the attack.
- **Epstein files release makes waves:** The Trump administration's first release of the federal government's files on deceased financier and convicted child sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein last month is among the most resonant of the Epstein-related news items we've tested over the past year. Roughly a third of Americans (32%) reported hearing "a lot" about the release, compared with an average of 26% who said the same of 17 other Epstein-related stories we tested in 2025.



Trump's approval ratings



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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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