

# Polling Insights from Scott Rasmussen

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**NAPOLITAN**  
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**GOLD CIRCLE MEMBERS**





## IT'S ALL ABOUT TRUMP

President Trump's ability to completely dominate the public dialogue for two full weeks has been remarkable to watch. His energy, actions to deliver on campaign promises, and ability to provoke establishment opponents have made Trump's words the starting point for every political discussion.

There is no effective opposition at the moment, because no one else can be heard. At some point that will change, but not for a while. If nothing else, the looming trade war and reshaping of the federal workforce will keep his adversaries in a defensive posture during the third week of his presidency.

Is it working?

- During his first week in office, Trump's approval jumped to 57%, four points higher than during his transition. That's higher than the president ever enjoyed during his first term.
- In week two, the bounce from his initial burst of activity has disappeared, and the president's job approval rating is back to pre-inauguration levels at 53%.

Still, that's a positive rating, especially for a president elected with just under 50% of the vote.

The underlying dynamics of those positive ratings are very similar to those found during Election 2024. There is a wide gap between voters with postgraduate degrees and everyone else.

- Among voters without college degrees, Trump's approval rating is 56%.
- It's the same – 56% – among voters with bachelor's degrees.
- However, among postgrads, his rating is 16 points lower at 40%.

In the rest of this memo, we'll look at [executive orders](#), [trust on top issues](#), [deportations](#), [trade wars](#), [fighting DEI](#), [Paris Climate Accords and World Health Organization](#), and [positive](#) and [negative](#) perceptions of America.

## EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Further confirmation that the political dialogue is all about Trump comes from data about his executive orders. Many are [quite popular](#), as are his efforts to deport illegal immigrants.

When asked about the overall barrage of executive orders, 52% of voters generally support them, while 42% have unfavorable views. That's very similar to the president's job approval rating and suggests that the overall assessment is about Trump rather than specific issues.





As for specific actions:

- Seventy percent (70%) favor his decision to declassify files related to the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert F. Kennedy.
- Sixty-five percent (65%) of voters approve of President Trump's decision to reinstate members of the military who refused to take the COVID vaccine.
- Sixty-two percent (62%) favor the requirement for all federal workers to return to the office.
- Sixty percent (60%) favor President Trump's decision to halt all foreign aid payments pending a review by his administration.
- Fifty-nine percent (59%) approve of President Trump's order to eliminate all censorship programs.
- Fifty-seven percent (57%) believe that parents have too little control over the education of their children, a position leading most to support school choice programs.
- Fifty-four percent (54%) support sending 88,000 IRS agents to help secure the southern border.
- Forty-nine percent (49%) favor a federal government hiring freeze, while 36% are opposed.

It must be noted that not all of the president's actions are popular. Voters are evenly divided on withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accords and the World Health Organization. They are also evenly divided on the topic of birthright citizenship.

## TRUST ON TOP ISSUES

The top three issues on voters' minds these days are inflation, immigration, and other economic concerns. Those priorities work well for the GOP. A recent [New York Times poll](#) found that the issues voters most closely identify with Republicans are immigration, the economy, and taxes.

At the same time, the Democrats are seen as missing in action on those priorities. The *NY Times* survey found that voters believe the Democratic Party's most important priorities are abortion, LGBTQ rights, and climate change. Those perceptions reflect a serious problem for the Democratic Party brand.

Napolitan News polling found that Republicans are trusted more than Democrats on all three of the top issues. On immigration, the GOP has a 16 point advantage (48% to 32%). On the economy, Trump's team enjoys a ten-point lead (44% to 34%) along with a nine-point edge on inflation (43% to 34%).

Democrats are trusted more than Republicans on four issues: climate change (48% to 28%), abortion (47% to 30%), health care (43% to 35%), and education (42% to 35%). While the Ds have a 20-point advantage on climate change, it is seen as the most important issue by only 9% of voters. Abortion is seen as the top issue by 4%.





## DEPORTATIONS

Sixty-three percent (63%) of voters nationwide favor the Trump Administration's efforts to this point to deport some illegal immigrants. Thirty-three percent (33%) have unfavorable views.

We anticipate that support for deportations will begin to decline at some point. It's easy to approve of the effort when the headlines are about dangerous criminals. But that is likely to change as more sympathetic illegal immigrants are deported.

So, Napolitan News has introduced a question we will ask on a regular basis to measure the shifting attitudes. In our initial ask, 62% of voters say the deportation efforts have not gone far enough or are about right. Just 30% say the deportations have gone too far.

The totals include 33% who say the deportations have not gone far enough and 29% who say the efforts have hit the right balance.

## TRADE WARS

[Polling conducted in December](#) found that voters were concerned about the economic impact of tariffs but approved of the president using tariffs as a negotiating strategy.

Last week, 57% of voters approved of President Trump's use of tariff threats in his showdown with Columbia.

However, in light of recent developments, we will explore these issues again. It is likely that support will change as tariffs either impact the economy or result in concessions from other countries.

## FIGHTING DEI

Just 23% of voters believe the federal government should be allowed to do business with a company whose training programs teach that America is fundamentally racist or sexist. Sixty-three percent (63%) take the opposite view and think such companies should be prohibited from doing business with the government.

More broadly, 67% say that the federal government should not be allowed to do business with companies that discriminate against some individuals. Only 16% oppose this policy.





## PARIS CLIMATE ACCORDS AND WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Knowing it has not been ratified by the U.S. Senate, 48% of voters approve of President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords.

On a related topic, 79% say it's important to fight climate change, but 59% say it's more important to keep gas prices low for American families.

Voters are evenly divided on President Trump's decision to withdraw from the World Health Organization. Forty-two percent (42%) favor the decision, while 44% are opposed.

## POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS OF AMERICA

Eighty-seven percent (87%) believe America was founded on the ideals of freedom, equality, and self-governance. Ninety-two percent (92%) say those ideals are worth fighting for.

Sixty-three percent (63%) believe America is still the land of opportunity. This includes 84% of Republicans and a plurality (43%) of Democrats.

Fifty-seven percent (57%) say the US is better than most other nations when it comes to providing freedom and equality. Only 15% say it is worse.

## NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS OF AMERICA

Sixty percent (60%) believe the federal government is a special interest group that looks out primarily for its own interests.

Additionally, just 38% believe the federal government is committed to the nation's founding ideals.

Only 48% believe America is a land of liberty and justice for all, while 40% say it is not. That's a modest improvement from four years ago when 43% said ours was a nation of liberty and justice for all, while 42% disagreed.

Finally, 39% believe American society is generally fair and decent. Forty-nine percent (49%) take the opposite view and see it primarily as unfair and discriminatory.

That's a big decline from last April when 52% said American society was fair and decent, and 39% thought the opposite. The change results from a collapse in positive views among Democrats, likely due to the election of President Trump.