



[What the Poll Numbers Say About President Trump's Second Term in Office at the 100-Day Mark](#)

This week saw the 100-day mark of President Trump's second term in the White House, something that has long been used as a telling and symbolic measuring stick for providing initial insight into public perception of a presidential term. As he reaches and moves beyond this milestone in his presidency, Trump is facing a declining approval rating – the lowest for any newly elected president at 100 days over the past eight decades – in addition to constituents' growing alarm at his methods and policies. The uncertainty and volatility brought on by Trump's sweeping tariffs have prompted a notable waning in confidence regarding his ability to handle the economy as well, an area that he made a central point of his 2024 presidential campaign and one that is consistently a top subject of importance for voters. The majority of Americans believe that Trump is going too far on several key issues including with his attempts to expand the power of the presidency, close federal agencies, lay off government employees, and take measures against political opponents, among others. Recent surveys show that most Americans also oppose a variety of Trump proposals such as deporting international students who have criticized U.S. policy in the Middle East, freezing foreign aid providing services for people in needy countries, increasing the federal government's role in how private universities operate, cutting back environmental regulations on oil and gas drilling, and reducing federal funding for medical research.

Trump's average job approval rating at this stage of his presidency is considerably lower than where all of his predecessors since the 1950s stood at the same juncture following the start of their new terms. In fact, the mere recorded lower rating of any post-World War II president compared to his current one came during Trump's first term back in 2017, with his two approval ratings then and now being the only instances of this sitting below 50% (41% and 45% respectively) at what many view as this early "honeymoon" phase of a presidency. In the past, with the exception of Trump's two terms, American presidents normally receive pretty favorable ratings somewhere in the range of 55% to 75% – with the average hovering around 60%. This is largely attributable to the narrow window of time for citizens to potentially sour on a president so early on, and thus, Trump's sub-50% average ratings during both of his terms speak to the substantial backlash that his actions have garnered in such a swift manner. The higher disapproval ratings for Trump can be linked to a more commonplace perception among Americans that his policies have not delivered what they promised, as a majority of survey respondents have regularly expressed that they dislike his actions on tariffs, managing the federal government, foreign policy, and the general state of the economy.

Perhaps most worryingly for Trump, Americans' sentiment regarding the country's economic outlook has worsened recently as well. Whereas back in February, 40% believed that economic conditions would be better a year from now compared to 37% who thought it would be worse, now just two months later as of April, only 36% say it will be better vs. a significant uptick of 45% that contend it will be worse. The noteworthy change in such a short period of time is likely due to the effects and expected negative impacts moving forward of Trump's array of early April tariffs. The tariffs themselves, in addition to the economic disruptions and uncertainty caused by the back-and-forth policies implementing and reversing them, have undoubtedly garnered Trump increased disapproval of his handling of the economy. Other recent polls, like the two below from CBS News, also demonstrate the overwhelming belief that the president's policies are having negative financial ramifications on

the American population and that more are starting to think that Trump does not have a clear plan for tariffs and trade.

With regard to what Trump's first 100 days back in office signify about U.S. policy towards the Middle East, experts argue that a few common themes have become apparent, such as his administration's transactional nature, its reliance on regional powers for mediation efforts, and the threats of military force as a means of trying to contain conflict. Gulf Arab nations with significant financial resources like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates stand to benefit from the Trump administration's desire to increase investment and business dealings. Trump officials also appear to be keen on propping these entities up to take on expanded international diplomacy roles, as was seen with Saudi Arabia's hosting of several rounds of direct U.S.-Russia talks in preceding months. Analysts have noted that Riyadh is in a particularly favorable position to play this role given Saudi leadership's extensive ties to Trump and his allies, as well as its cooperative relationship with Russia, allowing it to maintain a beneficial "fence-sitting" strategy among the two global powerhouses of the United States and Russia. President Trump's time back in the White House has shed light on a clear policy of threatening and in some cases using military force as an attempt at deterrence as well, as evidenced by his approach to Iran, the Houthis in Yemen, and others.

In order to help evaluate Trump's first 100 days back in office, a poll was also released earlier this week in which respondents were asked to give the president a grade for his performance thus far. Overall, almost exactly twice as many people said that Trump warranted an "F" compared to those who said he deserved an "A" for his first 100 days. While there were certainly obvious and expected partisan divides in the findings, it is notable that close to half of both overall respondents (45%) and Independents (49%) believed that Trump's time following his return to the White House has been worthy of a failing grade. Even amongst Republicans, only a slight majority (54%) give the president an "A" – a percentage that one would anticipate resembling the massive 80% of Democrats who grade Trump with an "F" if the data was inconsequential and mainly just cut across party lines and affiliations. Instead, the findings illustrate what many other polls and surveys around the 100-day mark have shown, which is that Trump's policies across-the-board are eliciting dissatisfaction from a majority of Americans.