

Tim Malloy, Polling Analyst (203) 645-8043

Doug Schwartz, Associate Vice President and Director (203) 582-5294

FOR RELEASE: FEBRUARY 19, 2025

# MAJORITY SAY SYSTEM OF CHECKS & BALANCES NOT WORKING WELL, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS; CONGRESSIONAL JOB APPROVAL: DEMOCRATS HIT ALL-TIME LOW, REPUBLICANS HIT RECORD HIGH

Less than 4 in 10 voters think the system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government is working well, while more than half of voters think it is <u>not</u> working well, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University national poll of registered voters released today.

Thirty-eight percent of voters think the system of checks and balances in the federal government is working either very well (9 percent) or somewhat well (29 percent), while 54 percent think it is working either not so well (24 percent) or not well at all (30 percent).

There are big differences by party identification.

Among Republicans, 57 percent think the system is working either very well (16 percent) or somewhat well (41 percent), while 34 percent think it is working either not so well (22 percent) or not well at all (12 percent).

Among Democrats, 14 percent think the system is working either very well (1 percent) or somewhat well (13 percent), while 80 percent think it is working either not so well (32 percent) or not well at all (48 percent).

Among independents, 41 percent think the system is working either very well (11 percent) or somewhat well (30 percent), while 52 percent think it is working either not so well (24 percent) or not well at all (28 percent).

"In a perfect world, the three great pillars of U.S. government stand firm, functional, and aligned with the Constitution. It's clear at the moment that registered voters sense dysfunction," said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

#### **ELON MUSK**

Fifty-five percent of voters think Elon Musk has too much power in making decisions affecting the United States, 36 percent think he has about the right amount of power, and 3 percent think he has too little power.

Among Republicans, 16 percent think Elon Musk has too much power, 78 percent think he has about the right amount of power, and 1 percent think he has too little power.

Among Democrats, 96 percent think Elon Musk has too much power and 1 percent think he has about the right amount of power.

Among independents, 56 percent think Elon Musk has too much power, 33 percent think he has about the right amount of power, and 4 percent think he has too little power.

Voters 54 - 42 percent disapprove of Elon Musk playing a prominent role in the Trump administration. In Quinnipiac University's January 29 poll, voters disapproved 53 - 39 percent.

## PRESIDENT TRUMP

Forty-five percent of voters approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president, while 49 percent disapprove. In Quinnipiac University's January 29 poll, 46 percent of voters approved, while 43 percent disapproved.

In today's poll, Republicans (90-7 percent) approve, while Democrats (95-4 percent) disapprove. Forty-three percent of independents approve, while 50 percent disapprove.

Voters were asked about Trump's handling of seven issues...

- immigration issues: 46 percent approve, 49 percent disapprove, with 5 percent not offering an opinion;
- the economy: 44 percent approve, 48 percent disapprove, with 8 percent not offering an opinion;
- foreign policy: 44 percent approve, 48 percent disapprove, with 8 percent not offering an opinion;
- trade: 42 percent approve, 49 percent disapprove, with 9 percent not offering an opinion;
- the federal workforce: 41 percent approve, 49 percent disapprove, with 10 percent not offering an opinion;
- the Russia Ukraine war: 40 percent approve, 44 percent disapprove, with 16 percent not offering an opinion;
- the Israel Hamas conflict: 38 percent approve, 47 percent disapprove, with 15 percent not offering an opinion.

## **CONGRESS**

Twenty-one percent of voters approve of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling their job, which is an all-time low, while 68 percent of voters disapprove and 11 percent did not offer an opinion. The Quinnipiac University Poll first asked this question of registered voters in March 2009.

In today's poll, 40 percent of Democrats approve of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling their job, while 49 percent disapprove and 11 percent did not offer an opinion.

Forty percent of voters approve of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling their job, which is a record high, while 52 percent disapprove and 8 percent did not offer an opinion. The Quinnipiac University Poll first asked this question of registered voters in March 2009.

"It's a sobering slap down of historic proportions for the Democrats in Congress. Their Republican counterparts take a victory lap as the Democrats try to get their footing," added Malloy.

#### **GAZA**

Two weeks after President Trump introduced a plan for the United States to take control of Gaza, 22 percent of voters support the proposal, while 62 percent oppose it.

Republicans (49 - 32 percent) support the proposal, while Democrats (94 - 1 percent) and independents (66 - 17 percent) oppose it.

"The grand plan to transform a shattered Gaza into a lavish American restoration project on the Mediterranean has many more skeptics than supporters," added Malloy.

#### **VLADIMIR PUTIN**

An overwhelming majority of voters (81 percent) think the United States should <u>not</u> trust Russian President Vladimir Putin, while 9 percent think the United States should trust him.

## **ECONOMY**

Nearly two-thirds of voters (64 percent) think inflation in the United States is a very serious problem, 29 percent think it is a somewhat serious problem, 5 percent think it is a not so serious problem, and 1 percent think it is not a problem at all.

Voters are evenly split on whether Trump's policies will help the nation's economy, hurt the nation's economy, or won't make a difference, as 44 percent think they will help the nation's economy, while 44 percent think they will hurt the nation's economy, and 7 percent think they won't make a difference.

Fifty-one percent of voters think Trump's tariffs will hurt the U.S. economy, while 40 percent think his tariffs will help the U.S. economy.

#### SATISFACTION

Forty percent of voters say they are either very satisfied (17 percent) or somewhat satisfied (23 percent) with the way things are going in the nation today, while 58 percent of voters say they are either somewhat dissatisfied (16 percent) or very dissatisfied (42 percent). This is the highest level of satisfaction (40 percent) since September 2019 in a Quinnipiac University poll.

# GENDER AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION

Fifty-seven percent of voters support President Trump's executive order recognizing only two sexes, male and female, in the United States, while 38 percent oppose it.

Republicans (96 - 4 percent) and independents (59 - 35 percent) support the order, while Democrats (77 - 14 percent) oppose the order.

Fifty-three percent of voters think policies focused on increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace are a good thing for organizations, while 38 percent think they are a bad thing for organizations.

Democrats (76 - 16 percent) and independents (54 - 39 percent) think they are a good thing for organizations, while Republicans (59 - 30 percent) think they are a bad thing for organizations.

1,039 self-identified registered voters nationwide were surveyed from February 13th – 17th with a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on probability-based samples using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

Visit <u>poll.qu.edu</u> or <u>www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll</u> Email <u>poll@qu.edu</u> or follow us on X @QuinnipiacPoll. 1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	REGIS	REGISTERED		VOTERS		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	45%	90%	4%	43%	57%	34%
Disapprove	49	7	95	50	38	60
DK/NA	6	3	1	7	5	6

1a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? COMBINED WITH: (If approve/disapprove q1) Do you strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove?

	REGIS	TERED	VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve strongly	39%	83%	2%	36%	4 9 응	29%
Approve smwht	6	7	3	6	7	4
Disapprove smwht	3	2	1	7	2	4
Disapprove strongly	45	4	94	43	36	55
DK/NA	7	4	1	9	6	7

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling their job?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	40%	79%	4%	40%	48%	33%
Disapprove	52	10	92	53	42	61
DK/NA	8	11	4	8	10	6

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling their job?

	REGIS	REGISTERED		VOTERS		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	21%	8%	40%	19%	16%	26%
Disapprove	68	86	49	70	74	63
DK/NA	11	6	11	10	11	10

4. Is your opinion of Donald Trump favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	45%	89%	2%	47%	57%	34%
Unfavorable	49	7	97	46	38	60
Hvn't hrd enough	3	2	1	4	4	2
REFUSED	3	2	_	4	2	3

5. Is your opinion of J.D. Vance favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	38%	79%	1%	37%	48%	28%
Unfavorable	39	5	79	39	33	45
Hvn't hrd enough	22	15	19	23	18	25
REFUSED	1	1	_	1	1	1

6. Is your opinion of Elon Musk favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS				
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Favorable	38%	75%	2%	39%	49%	28%	
Unfavorable	50	7	96	48	39	61	
Hvn't hrd enough	10	16	2	12	10	10	
REFUSED	2	1	-	1	2	1	

7. Would you say that Donald Trump is doing a better job as president than you expected, a worse job, or about what you expected?

	REGIST	ERED VO	TERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Better Worse As expected DK/NA	26% 26 45 3	52% 2 44 2	1% 61 34 3	26% 21 51 3	32% 21 44 3	20% 31 45 3
	TRUMP Appr	APPROVA Disap	L Q1			
Better Worse As expected DK/NA	57% 1 41 2	1% 51 45 2				

8. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in the nation today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	REGIS	TERED V	OTERS					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom		
Very satisfied	17%	35%	4%	16%	21%	14%		
Smwht satisfied	23	36	2	28	26	19		
Smwht dissatisfied	16	18	11	17	19	12		
Very dissatisfied	42	7	82	37	31	53		
DK/NA	2	3	_	2	2	2		

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - immigration issues?

	REGIS	TERED	VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	46%	89%	4%	46%	57%	36%
Disapprove	49	8	93	49	38	60
DK/NA	5	3	3	5	5	4

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - the economy?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	44%	87%	2%	44%	55%	33%
Disapprove	48	9	93	45	34	62
DK/NA	8	4	4	10	11	5

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - foreign policy?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS				
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Approve	44%	888	3%	42%	54%	34%	
Disapprove	48	7	93	49	38	58	
DK/NA	8	5	4	9	8	8	

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - the federal workforce?

	REGIS	TERED V	VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	41%	81%	1%	41%	53%	29%
Disapprove	49	10	96	48	39	60
DK/NA	10	8	2	11	9	10

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - the Israel - Hamas conflict?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS				
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Approve Disapprove DK/NA	38% 47 15	78% 9 12	4% 87 9	37% 48 15	46% 41 13	31% 53 17	

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - the Russia - Ukraine war?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	40%	77%	4%	41%	48%	32%
Disapprove	44	7	88	43	34	54
DK/NA	16	16	8	16	18	14

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - trade?

	REGIS	REGISTERED		VOTERS		
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	42%	84%	3%	40%	54%	30%
Disapprove	49	8	92	49	37	60
DK/NA	9	8	5	11	8	10

16. Do you think Donald Trump's policies will help the nation's economy, hurt the nation's economy, or won't make a difference?

	REGIS	TERED	VOTERS				
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Help	44%	89%	2%	41%	54%	34%	
Hurt	44	4	91	43	34	54	
No difference	7	4	5	9	8	6	
DK/NA	5	2	2	7	4	6	

17. Do you think Donald Trump's policies will help your personal financial situation, hurt your personal financial situation, or won't make a difference?

	REGIS	REGISTERED				
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Help	36%	72%	4%	32%	43%	28%
Hurt	37	4	72	35	28	45
No difference	25	22	19	31	27	23
DK/NA	3	2	4	2	2	4

18. In general, how serious a problem do you think inflation is in the United States; a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, a not so serious problem, or not a problem at all?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			. <b></b>	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Very serious	64%	74%	53%	64%	61%	67%	
Smwht serious	29	23	36	29	31	27	
Not so serious	5	2	8	5	5	4	
Not a problem at all	1	-	1	1	1	1	
DK/NA	2	1	2	1	2	2	

19. How well do you think the system of checks and balances between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the federal government is working; very well, somewhat well, not so well, or not well at all?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very well	9%	16%	1%	11%	11%	7%
Smwht well	29	41	13	30	28	29
Not so well	24	22	32	24	23	26
Not well at all	30	12	48	28	30	30
DK/NA	8	9	5	7	7	8

20. In thinking about U.S. involvement around the globe, which comes closer to your line of thinking: the United States is too involved in other countries' affairs, the United States is not involved enough in other countries' affairs, or the United States is involved about the right amount in other countries' affairs?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Too involved	52%	62%	36%	53%	59%	45%
Not involved enough	10	4	21	5	6	13
About right amount	32	33	32	36	31	34
DK/NA	7	2	11	5	5	9

21. Do you approve or disapprove of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. becoming Secretary of Health and Human Services?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	43%	81%	7%	42%	53%	34%
Disapprove	47	13	86	45	37	56
DK/NA	10	5	7	13	10	10

22. Do you approve or disapprove of Tulsi Gabbard becoming Director of National Intelligence?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	38%	76%	4%	37%	48%	29%
Disapprove	40	5	78	39	34	46
DK/NA	21	19	19	24	18	25

23. Do you approve or disapprove of Kash Patel becoming Director of the FBI?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS				
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Approve	36%	70%	2%	37%	47%	25%	
Disapprove	41	8	81	39	36	45	
DK/NA	23	22	18	23	17	30	

24. Do you approve or disapprove of Elon Musk playing a prominent role in the Trump administration?

	REGIS	TERED '	VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	42%	84%	2%	39%	51%	32%
Disapprove	54	12	97	56	44	65
DK/NA	4	4	1	5	5	3

25. Do you think Elon Musk has too much, too little, or about the right amount of power in making decisions affecting the United States?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Too much	55%	16%	96%	56%	45%	66%
Too little	3	1	_	4	4	1
About right	36	78	1	33	45	28
DK/NA	6	4	3	6	6	6

26. Do you think President Trump's tariffs will help or hurt the U.S. economy?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Help	40%	82%	2%	38%	49%	32%
Hurt	51	10	94	52	41	60
NO DIFFERENCE (VOL)	-	-	_	1	-	1
DK/NA	8	8	4	10	9	7

27. Do you support or oppose President Trump's proposal for the United States to take control of Gaza?

	REGISTERED		OTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	22%	49%	1%	17%	25%	19%
Oppose	62	32	94	66	61	64
DK/NA	16	19	5	17	14	18

28. Do you think the United States should trust Russian President Vladimir Putin, or not?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS				
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	
Yes/Should trust	9%	15%	2%	9%	12%	5%	
No	81	73	93	83	78	84	
DK/NA	10	12	5	8	10	11	

29. Do you support or oppose President Trump's executive order recognizing only two sexes, male and female, in the United States?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	57%	96%	14%	59%	68%	45%
Oppose	38	4	77	35	27	50
DK/NA	5	_	8	5	5	5

30. Do you think that policies focused on increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace are a good thing for organizations or a bad thing for organizations?

	REGISTERED		VOTERS			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
A good thing	53%	30%	76%	54%	45%	62%
A bad thing	38	59	16	39	47	28
DK/NA	9	11	8	7	8	10