
FOR RELEASE: MAY 20, 2026

**TRUMP’S HANDLING OF ECONOMY HITS ALL-TIME LOW,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;
VOTERS PREFER DEMS TO WIN CONTROL OF HOUSE BUT GIVE
THEM POOR MARKS FOR CURRENT JOB**

More than two months after the U.S. launched an attack on Iran and with a jump in oil prices, one third of voters (33 percent) approve of the way President Donald Trump is handling the economy and 64 percent disapprove, the lowest approval on the economy Trump has received in either of his terms as president, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University national poll of registered voters released today.

Among Republicans, 73 percent approve of the way Trump is handling the economy, while 24 percent disapprove.

Among Democrats, 97 percent disapprove of the way Trump is handling the economy, while 1 percent approve.

Among independents, 70 percent disapprove of the way Trump is handling the economy, while 27 percent approve.

Today’s poll is a change from Quinnipiac University’s April 15 poll, when 38 percent of voters approved of the way Trump was handling the economy and 57 percent disapproved. In that poll, Republicans 88 – 9 percent approved of the way Trump was handling the economy.

“What was perhaps the signature issue that propelled Trump to winning two elections sours with voters and cracks form in GOP enthusiasm for his handling of the economy,” said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

In addition to the economy, voters were asked about Trump’s handling of:

- immigration issues: 40 percent approve, while 57 percent disapprove;
- trade: 36 percent approve, while 59 percent disapprove;
- foreign policy: 35 percent approve, while 60 percent disapprove;
- the situation with Iran: 33 percent approve, while 61 percent disapprove.

TRUMP: JOB APPROVAL

When it comes to the way President Trump is handling his job overall, 34 percent of voters approve of the way he is handling his job as president, while 58 percent disapprove.

This is a slight drop from Quinnipiac University's April 15 poll, when 38 percent of voters approved of the way Trump was handling his job as president and 55 percent disapproved, and is the lowest approval rating for Trump in his second term.

IRAN

Thirty-eight percent of voters support the U.S. military action against Iran, while 56 percent oppose it.

This compares to Quinnipiac University's April 15 poll, when 40 percent supported the U.S. military action against Iran and 53 percent opposed it.

MOST URGENT ISSUE

Given a list of ten issues and asked which is the most urgent one facing the country today, the economy (31 percent) tops the list followed by preserving democracy in the United States (26 percent). No other issue reached double digits.

GAS PRICES

Voters were asked how easy or difficult it is for them to afford gas: 19 percent say very easy, 31 percent say somewhat easy, 28 percent say somewhat difficult, and 17 percent say very difficult.

This is a change from Quinnipiac University's December 17, 2025 poll, when 33 percent said very easy, 32 percent said somewhat easy, 21 percent said somewhat difficult, and 8 percent said very difficult.

Voters were asked how much they blame Donald Trump for the recent rise in gasoline prices: 55 percent say a lot, 17 percent say some, 11 percent say not much, and 16 percent say not at all.

“What was promised to be temporary pain to fill up seems to hurt more as time passes,” added Malloy.

CUTTING BACK?

Voters were given a list of current spending habits and asked if they have cut back on them, or not:

- dining out: 54 percent say yes, while 44 percent say no;
- entertainment or leisure activities like going to movies, shows, or sporting events: 49 percent say yes, while 47 percent say no;
- vacation plans: 48 percent say yes, while 49 percent say no;
- grocery shopping: 43 percent say yes, while 56 percent say no;
- driving: 36 percent say yes, while 60 percent say no.

FOCUS ON NATION'S PROBLEMS

More than two-thirds of voters (68 percent) think Donald Trump is not focused enough on addressing the problems most Americans are facing, while 29 percent think he is focused enough on addressing the problems most Americans are facing.

“Has the president taken his eye off domestic concerns? Voters suggest it's time to look homeward,” added Malloy.

CONTROL OF U.S. HOUSE

If the election were held today, 50 percent of voters would want to see the Democratic Party win control of the United States House of Representatives, while 39 percent would want to see the Republican Party win control of the House. Eleven percent did not offer an opinion.

DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS

Twenty percent of voters approve of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling their job, while 72 percent disapprove, nearing the all-time low set in Quinnipiac University's December 2025 poll, when 18 percent of voters approved and 73 percent disapproved.

In today's poll, among Democrats, 41 percent approve of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling their job, while 50 percent disapprove.

Half of voters (50 percent) think Democrats in Congress should be doing more to stand up to President Trump, while 42 percent think Democrats in Congress should be doing more to work with him.

Among Democrats, 93 percent think Democrats in Congress should be doing more to stand up to President Trump, while 3 percent think Democrats in Congress should be doing more to work with him.

"Democrats to the legislators they elected: you may be polling as the party of choice to rule the House, but it's time to take off the gloves and take the president to task," added Malloy.

REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS

Twenty-seven percent of voters approve of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling their job, while 67 percent disapprove.

This compares to Quinnipiac University's December 2025 poll, when 35 percent of voters approved and 58 percent disapproved.

In today's poll, among Republicans, 65 percent approve of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling their job, while 30 percent disapprove.

A majority of voters (56 percent) think Republicans in Congress should be doing more to stand up to President Trump, while 35 percent think Republicans in Congress should be doing more to work with him.

Among Republicans, 80 percent think Republicans in Congress should be doing more to work with President Trump, while 13 percent think Republicans in Congress should be doing more to stand up to him.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION APPROVALS

Job approval ratings for four Trump administration officials:

- Secretary of State Marco Rubio: 40 percent approve, 46 percent disapprove, with 14 percent not offering an opinion;
- Vice President J.D. Vance: 39 percent approve, 54 percent disapprove, with 7 percent not offering an opinion;
- Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth: 34 percent approve, 55 percent disapprove, with 11 percent not offering an opinion;
- FBI Director Kash Patel: 30 percent approve, 56 percent disapprove, with 14 percent not offering an opinion.

SUPREME COURT

One third of voters (33 percent) approve of the way the United States Supreme Court is handling its job, while 57 percent disapprove, with 10 percent not offering an opinion.

This compares to Quinnipiac University's July 16, 2025 poll, when 40 percent approved, 53 percent disapproved, and 7 percent did not offer an opinion.

WHITE HOUSE BALLROOM

Voters were asked about the East Wing of the White House being torn down and construction now underway to replace it with a ballroom for large events: 60 percent of voters oppose the project, while 34 percent support it.

Sixty-six percent of voters oppose using one billion dollars of taxpayer money to enhance security infrastructure at the White House as part of the ballroom project, while 29 percent support it.

POPE LEO

Thirty-eight percent of adults have a favorable opinion of Pope Leo, while 12 percent have an unfavorable opinion, and 45 percent have not heard enough about him.

Among Catholics, 54 percent have a favorable opinion of Pope Leo, while 9 percent have an unfavorable opinion, and 35 percent have not heard enough about him.

Two-thirds of adults (67 percent) think religious leaders should voice their beliefs about international conflicts, while 24 percent do not think religious leaders should voice their beliefs about international conflicts.

UFO FILES

In the wake of the Pentagon releasing what it describes as "never-before-seen" files on UFOs, 36 percent of adults believe these unexplained phenomena are evidence of intelligent life on other planets in the universe, while 42 percent do not believe they are evidence, with 22 percent not offering an opinion.

1,106 self-identified registered voters nationwide were surveyed from May 14th – 18th with a margin of error of +/- 3.7 percentage points, including the design effect. The survey included 1,316 adults with a margin of error of +/- 3.4 percentage points, including the design effect.

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 poll.qu.edu or www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll
Email poll@qu.edu or follow us on X [@QuinnipiacPoll](https://twitter.com/QuinnipiacPoll).

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	34%	80%	2%	26%	39%	30%
Disapprove	58	12	97	64	52	63
DK/NA	8	7	2	10	10	7

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?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve strongly	26%	65%	2%	20%	30%	23%
Approve smwht	7	14	-	6	8	6
Disapprove smwht	5	4	1	8	5	5
Disapprove strongly	52	6	95	55	46	56
DK/NA	10	11	2	11	11	9

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

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	20%	3%	41%	18%	16%	23%
Disapprove	72	94	50	72	78	67
DK/NA	9	3	9	10	7	10

3. 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	27%	65%	1%	19%	33%	22%
Disapprove	67	30	95	75	61	71
DK/NA	6	6	4	6	5	7

4. If the election were today, would you want to see the Republican Party or the Democratic Party win control of the United States House of Representatives?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Republican Party	39%	88%	2%	32%	45%	34%
Democratic Party	50	6	96	52	43	56
DK/NA	11	6	2	16	12	11

5. Do you think Democrats in Congress should be doing more to stand up to President Trump or do you think Democrats in Congress should be doing more to work with President Trump?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Stand up to	50%	7%	93%	54%	44%	56%
Work with	42	86	3	38	48	37
NEITHER (VOL)	4	2	2	4	3	4
DK/NA	4	5	2	4	5	4

6. Do you think Republicans in Congress should be doing more to stand up to President Trump or do you think Republicans in Congress should be doing more to work with President Trump?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Stand up to	56%	13%	94%	65%	50%	62%
Work with	35	80	1	27	39	32
NEITHER (VOL)	4	4	2	4	5	3
DK/NA	5	4	3	4	6	4

7. If a candidate for the House of Representatives supports President Trump, does that make you: more likely to vote for them, less likely to vote for them, or doesn't it have an impact either way?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
More likely	18%	46%	1%	12%	21%	15%
Less likely	45	4	84	48	39	49
No impact	34	47	12	38	37	31
DK/NA	4	4	3	2	3	4

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States Supreme Court is handling its job?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	69%	5%	31%	42%	26%
Disapprove	57	20	89	61	50	63
DK/NA	10	11	6	8	8	11

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Marco Rubio is handling his job as Secretary of State?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	40%	85%	8%	35%	46%	35%
Disapprove	46	8	81	50	41	50
DK/NA	14	7	11	15	13	15

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Pete Hegseth is handling his job as Secretary of Defense?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	34%	77%	2%	28%	40%	28%
Disapprove	55	14	92	62	50	60
DK/NA	11	9	6	10	10	12

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kash Patel is handling his job as Director of the FBI?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	30%	67%	3%	26%	34%	27%
Disapprove	56	18	87	62	56	56
DK/NA	14	15	10	12	10	17

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way J.D. Vance is handling his job as vice president?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	39%	83%	3%	35%	46%	33%
Disapprove	54	14	92	58	48	59
DK/NA	7	3	5	7	6	8

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

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	73%	1%	27%	40%	26%
Disapprove	64	24	97	70	58	69
DK/NA	4	3	2	2	2	5

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

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	35%	78%	1%	29%	42%	29%
Disapprove	60	19	97	66	54	65
DK/NA	5	3	2	5	4	6

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

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	76%	3%	27%	39%	28%
Disapprove	61	21	96	68	57	65
DK/NA	6	4	1	5	5	7

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

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	40%	85%	1%	35%	46%	34%
Disapprove	57	13	97	63	51	62
DK/NA	3	2	1	3	2	4

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

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	36%	80%	1%	31%	44%	29%
Disapprove	59	19	95	65	52	65
DK/NA	5	1	4	4	3	6

18. Do you think Donald Trump is focused enough on addressing the problems most Americans are facing, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Focused	29%	68%	1%	24%	35%	25%
No	68	30	99	74	63	73
DK/NA	3	2	-	2	2	3

19. In your opinion, what is the most urgent issue facing the country today: the economy, climate change, health care, immigration, abortion, racial inequality, crime, preserving democracy in the United States, international conflicts, or gun violence?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Economy	31%	38%	28%	29%	34%	28%
Climate change	2	-	4	3	3	2
Health care	7	5	7	9	7	8
Immigration	7	14	4	6	9	6
Abortion	3	2	2	4	2	4
Racial inequality	4	1	8	3	3	5
Crime	5	9	1	5	6	4
Preserving democracy	26	14	38	27	22	30
Intl conflicts	6	8	4	6	5	6
Gun violence	2	2	1	2	1	3
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	5	6	2	5	7	3
DK/NA	2	2	1	2	3	1

20. Do you support or oppose the U.S. military action against Iran?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	38%	83%	4%	33%	46%	31%
Oppose	56	16	90	62	52	60
DK/NA	6	2	5	5	2	9

21. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Excellent	3%	5%	-	3%	3%	2%
Good	27	55	2	25	34	20
Not so good	29	29	32	27	28	29
Poor	40	9	64	44	33	46
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	2	1

22. How easy or difficult is it for you to afford gas; very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult, or very difficult?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very easy	19%	28%	13%	18%	22%	16%
Somewhat easy	31	38	26	31	34	28
Somewhat difficult	28	20	29	31	27	28
Very difficult	17	9	22	18	11	22
DK/NA	6	6	10	2	6	5

23. How much do you blame Donald Trump for the recent rise in gasoline prices; a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
A lot	55%	16%	90%	59%	51%	59%
Some	17	28	7	19	16	18
Not much	11	22	-	11	14	8
Not at all	16	33	2	11	18	14
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	1	1

24. (Intro: Thinking about your current habits, would you be able to tell me if you have cut back in any of the following areas?) Have you cut back on - grocery shopping, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	43%	28%	54%	45%	34%	51%
No	56	71	45	55	65	48
DK/NA	1	1	1	-	1	1

25. (Intro at q24) Have you cut back on - dining out, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	54%	38%	69%	54%	48%	58%
No	44	59	28	44	50	38
DK/NA	2	3	3	2	1	3

26. (Intro at q24) Have you cut back on - entertainment or leisure activities like going out to movies, shows, or sporting events, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	49%	28%	64%	54%	43%	55%
No	47	69	33	43	54	41
DK/NA	4	3	3	3	3	4

27. (Intro at q24) Have you cut back on - vacation plans, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	48%	33%	62%	51%	39%	55%
No	49	63	35	48	57	41
DK/NA	4	4	3	2	3	4

28. (Intro at q24) Have you cut back on - driving, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	36%	22%	47%	38%	31%	41%
No	60	74	47	60	66	54
DK/NA	4	3	6	1	3	4

29. As you may know, the East Wing of the White House was torn down and construction is underway to replace it with a ballroom for large events. Do you support or oppose this project?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	34%	72%	2%	31%	42%	27%
Oppose	60	21	96	64	52	67
DK/NA	6	8	2	5	6	6

30. Do you support or oppose using one billion dollars of taxpayer money to enhance security infrastructure at the White House as part of the ballroom project?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	29%	61%	1%	28%	38%	21%
Oppose	66	27	98	70	58	73
DK/NA	5	12	1	2	4	6

31. (Adults) Is your opinion of Pope Leo favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	ADULTS.....			RELIGION.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Prot	Cath	None
Favorable	38%	36%	39%	35%	54%	37%
Unfavorable	12	12	12	17	9	9
Hvn't hrd enough	45	45	45	41	35	49
REFUSED	5	6	4	6	3	4

32. (Adults) As you may know, Pope Leo has been outspoken about his opposition to the war with Iran. Do you think religious leaders should voice their beliefs about international conflicts, or not?

	ADULTS.....			RELIGION.....		
	Tot	Men	Wom	Prot	Cath	None
Yes/Should	67%	68%	67%	68%	73%	67%
No	24	24	24	27	22	20
DK/NA	8	8	9	5	5	13

33. (Adults) As you may know, the Pentagon recently released what it describes as "never-before-seen" files on UFOs. Do you believe these unexplained phenomena are evidence of intelligent life on other planets in the universe, or not?

	ADULTS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Believe	36%	31%	33%	38%	35%	38%
No	42	50	45	38	45	39
DK/NA	22	19	23	24	20	24