

Trump at a Low: Approval drops to 34%, nearly half say he has accomplished 'nothing' in second term

Six per cent unable to name a failure by Trump, while 47 per cent unable to name an accomplishment

August 20, 2026 – As Canadians await the details of a new trade deal between their country and the United States, U.S. President Donald Trump's approval has slipped to its lowest level yet. This, while Americans evaluating his record are considerably more likely to identify failures than accomplishments.

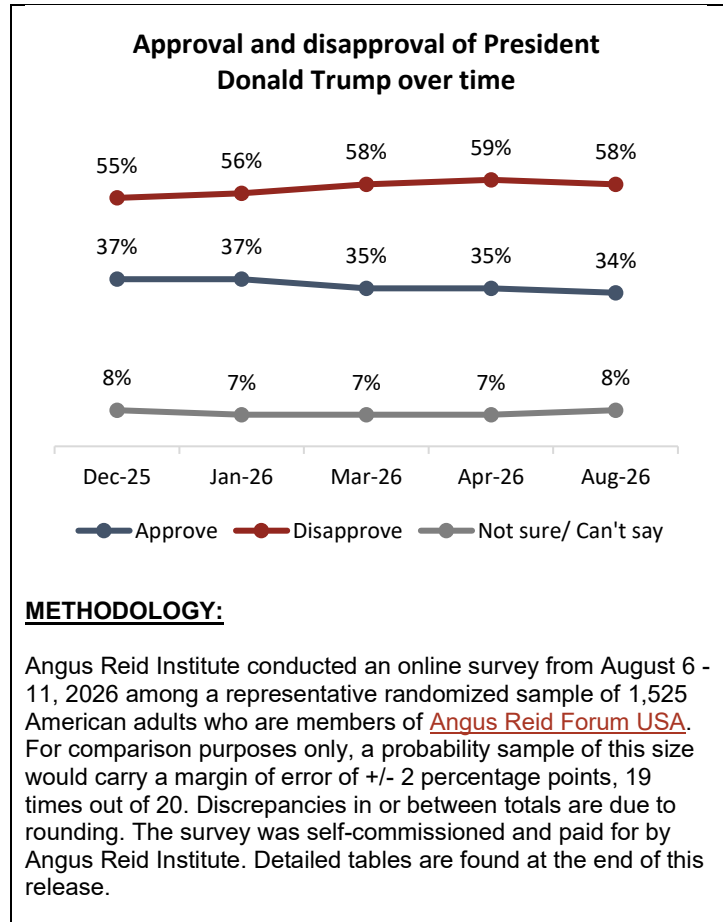
New data from Angus Reid Institute finds one-third (34%) of Americans approve of Trump's performance as president, compared with three-in-five (58%) who disapprove. Approval has declined modestly but steadily from 37 per cent in December and January, while disapproval has remained the majority view throughout 2026.

Asked in their own words to identify Trump's greatest accomplishment since returning to office, nearly half (47%) say there has been none. Immigration and border security – mentioned by 17 per cent – stands well ahead of other positive responses, including strong leadership or putting America first (7%) and the economy, jobs and prices (6%). Republicans are considerably more likely to identify something positive: 78 per cent do so, compared with half (50%) of Independents and 28 per cent of Democrats.

Americans have considerably less difficulty identifying what they view as Trump's failures. More than one-third (36%) answer broadly that his "entire presidency" has been his greatest failure, while the ongoing war with Iran is the most commonly cited specific issue (18%). Cost of living and inflation follow at 11 per cent. Just six per cent offer no answer when asked about Trump's failures, compared with nearly half who name no accomplishment.

INDEX:

- Approval drops to 34 per cent
- Accomplishments and failures, so far



CONTACT:

Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl
Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 dave.korzinski@angusreid.org

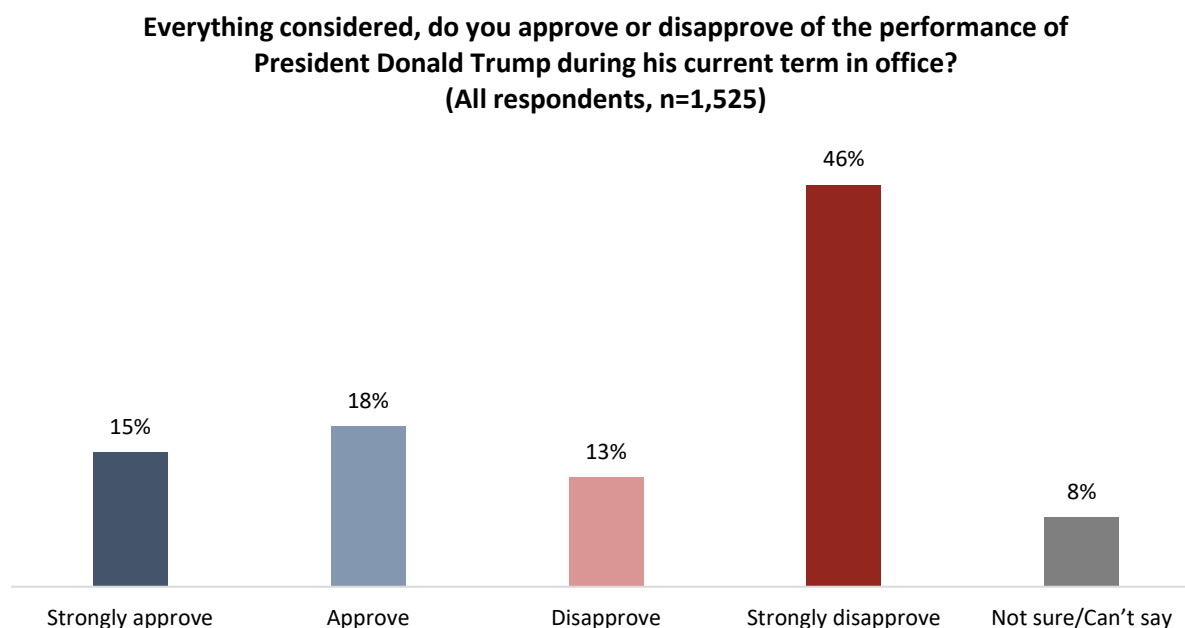
Approval drops to 34 per cent

Despite official statements from the White House, it appears that the United States has become mired in a conflict with Iran that has had widespread negative economic ramifications. One has been readily visible as Americans commute and take summer vacations: the gas prices ticking up on service station signs across the country. With negotiations between the U.S. and Iran stalled, gas prices have hit [the highest ever recorded for the month of August](#).

Related:

- [Majority disapprove of hosting UFC at White House as cost of living and inflation tower over other concerns](#)
- [Iran War: Few see conflict ending soon, as opposition to the war — including among MAGA supporters — rises](#)

U.S. President Donald Trump appears to be an unpopular president leading an unpopular war. Three-in-five Americans (59%) say they disapprove of Trump's performance; the one-third (33%) who instead approve are in the minority:

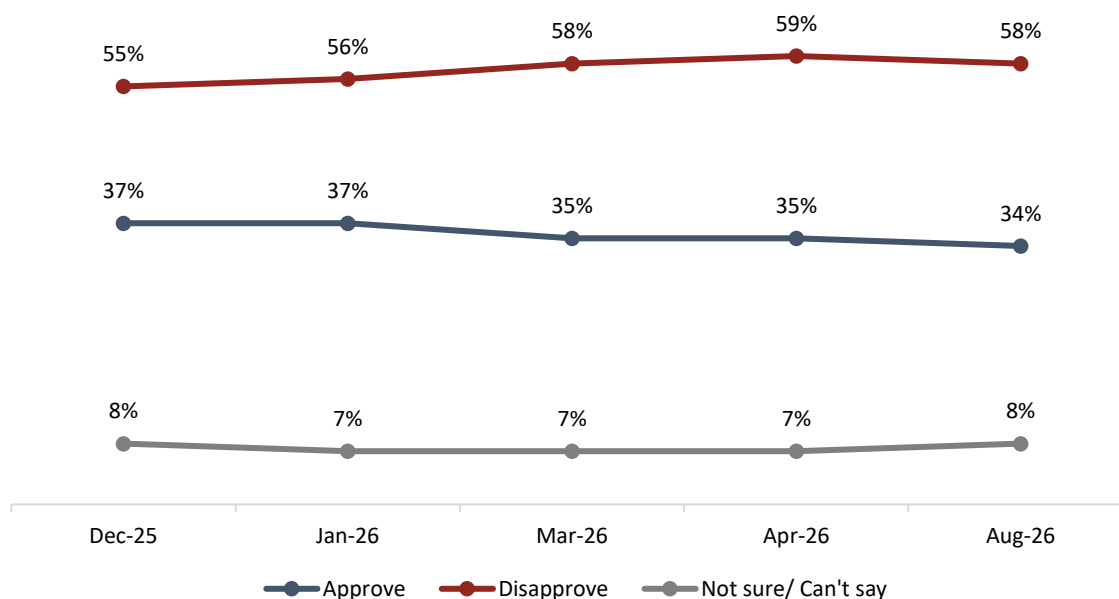


Disapproval of Trump has been the majority opinion throughout 2026. And 34 per cent is the lowest approval of Trump recorded in Angus Reid USA tracking during his return for a second term in the Oval Office:

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Dave Korzinski, Research Director: 250.899.0821 dave.korzinski@angusreid.org

President Trump Approval vs Disapproval



Trump retains the approval of nearly all (88%) of his most fervent supporters: Republicans who self-identify as part of the MAGA movement. There is more disapproval among non-MAGA Republicans, but they are outnumbered by the majority (59%) who offer a thumbs-up to the Republican President.

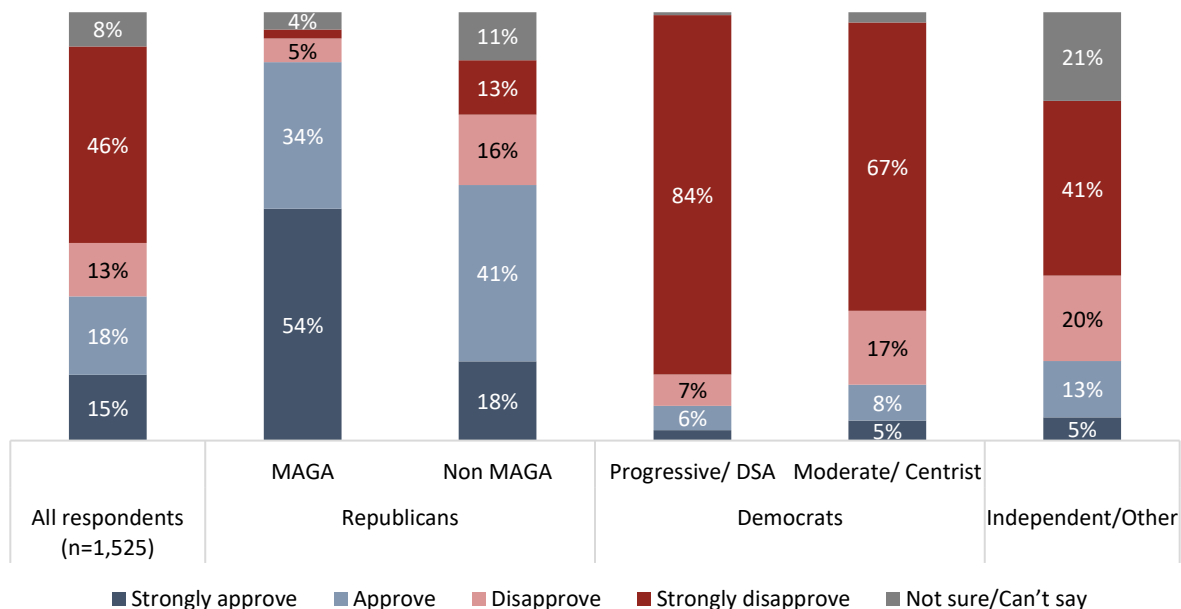
Three-in-five (61%) Americans who don't identify as Republican or Democrat disapprove of Trump.

And strong disapproval is the majority opinion among Democrats, regardless of whether they place themselves in the progressive or moderate side of that movement:

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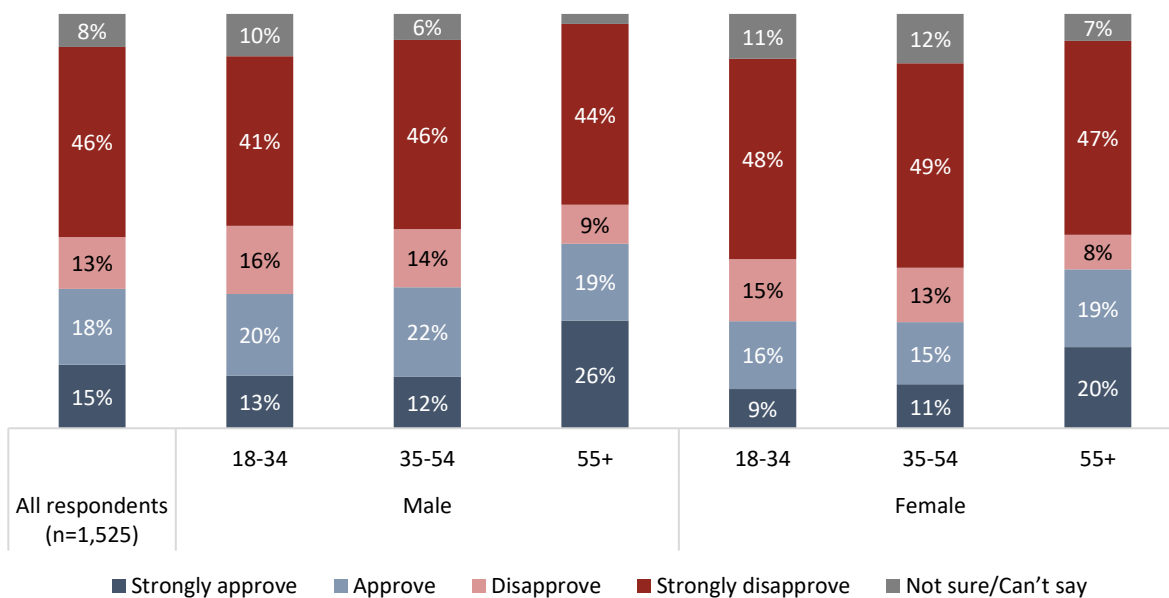
Shachi Kurl, President: 604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl
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Everything considered, do you approve or disapprove of the performance of President Donald Trump during his current term in office?



A majority of all demographics say they disapprove of Trump's performance as president. Americans older than 54 offer more approval than younger ones:

Everything considered, do you approve or disapprove of the performance of President Donald Trump during his current term in office?



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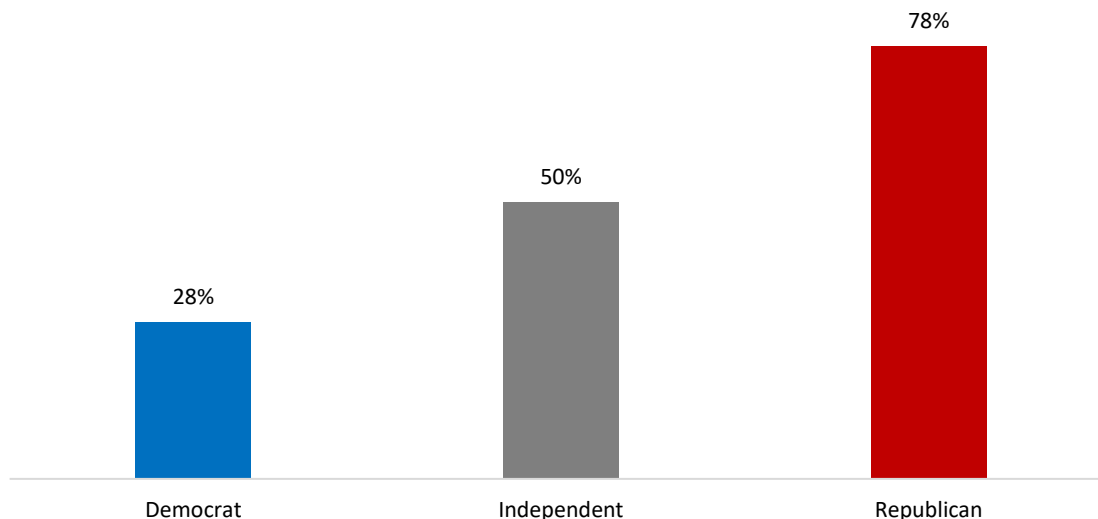
Accomplishments and failures, so far

Although Democrats and Independents are highly negative on Trump's performance in the White House, there is plenty of praise from Republicans. To explore what is driving approval for Trump in their own words, Angus Reid USA asked Americans an open-ended question:

"Thinking about his time in office since his January 2025 inauguration, what, if anything, do you feel has been his greatest accomplishment?"

Three-quarters (78%) of Republicans, half (50%) of Independents and three-in-ten (28%) Democrats named a positive accomplishment for Trump:

Percentage that can name a positive accomplishment by Trump since 2025



Top responses to "accomplishments" question

Trump's performance on immigration and border security is the top response (17%) among those who named an accomplishment, while strong leadership and placing America first (7%) and the economy (6%) are the other accomplishments named in the top three. No accomplishment (47%) was the highest response. There are also nine per cent who used the open-ended question for a negative response:

Theme	Mentions	% of respondents
No accomplishment / nothing at all	713	47%
Immigration & border security	262	17%
Sarcastic / negative framing of 'accomplishment'	139	9%
Don't know / no answer	130	9%
America first / strong leadership	105	7%

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Economy, jobs & prices	93	6%
Foreign policy, Iran & military	78	5%
Govt efficiency, fraud & spending cuts	78	5%
Taxes, tips & trade	49	3%
Social & cultural issues	27	2%
Crime & public safety	26	2%
Big Beautiful Bill / tax-and-spending law	10	1%

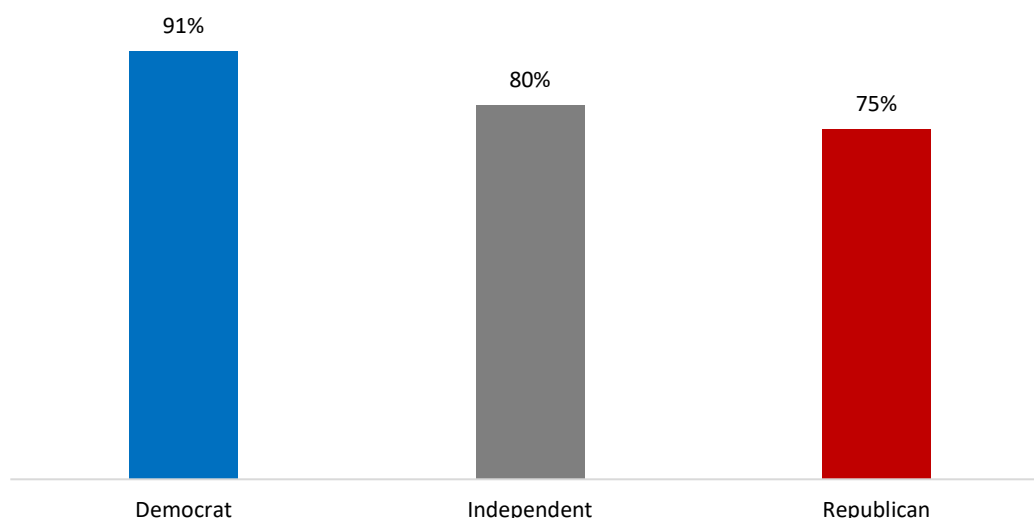
Top responses to “failures” question

Angus Reid USA also asked the inverse:

“And what, if anything, do you feel has been his greatest failure?”

For this response, each group – Republicans included – are more likely to be able to produce an example than they were when thinking about Trump’s accomplishments.

Percentage that can name a failure by Trump since 2025



More than one-third (36%) of Americans say “his entire presidency”. Among those who pick a specific, the Iran war is chosen the most (18%). Perhaps relatedly, inflation (11%) is also a high choice.

Notably, while approaching half (47%) of Americans could not name an accomplishment when prompted, one-in-10 could not name a failure:

Theme	Mentions	% of respondents
Everything / his entire presidency	544	36%
Iran war & foreign conflict	269	18%
Cost of living, inflation & prices	164	11%

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Economy & jobs	105	7%
Don't know / no answer	97	6%
Immigration & ICE enforcement	90	6%
No failures / nothing	82	5%
Corruption, lying & self-enrichment	76	5%
Character, temperament & communication	69	5%
Division & national unity	54	4%
Tariffs & trade	51	3%
Foreign relations & allies	49	3%
Democracy, rule of law & Constitution	43	3%
Health care, social programs & federal cuts	42	3%
His election / existence (sarcastic)	42	3%
Epstein & classified files	21	1%
Debt, deficit & government spending	16	1%
White House renovation & optics	14	1%

For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here.](#)

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