

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Corrie Hunt, Jay Campbell, & Geoff Garin
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RE: Trump's First 100 Days: National Survey Finds Voters Alarmed by Costs, Abuse of Power, and Clean Energy Cuts

Hart Research conducted a national survey of 1,314 registered voters from April 10 to 14, 2025. The sample was structured to allow for a close analysis of “ambivalent Trump voters,” who supported him with doubts or reservations in the 2024 election. The survey was sponsored by Climate Power and the League of Conservation Voters to understand how voters are evaluating Donald Trump’s first 100 days in office.

The Upshot: The poll reveals that although voters elected a president they expected to improve the economy and lower the cost of living, they believe Donald Trump has done neither. Instead, they see a presidency marked by chaos, recklessness, and abuse of power. What’s different now is that voters are connecting the chaos to real-world consequences. Voters have lost confidence in Trump’s energy policies, which they associate with higher costs. Voters are also concerned by Trump’s actions that benefit polluters at the expense of average families. Independents and those who voted for Trump with reservations are notably negative on all of these points.

- 1. Trump’s mishandling of the economy has emerged as a major weakness for him with voters.**
 - Voters believe Trump is making inflation worse, the very issue he was elected to fix. Six in 10 (58%) say he is causing the cost of living to go up, including 59% of independents, 52% of ambivalent Trump voters and 90% of Harris voters.
 - Trump also gets poor marks as a job creator, another core claim of his brand. Only 29% of voters believe he is having a positive impact on the number and availability of good-paying jobs; 57% say he is having a negative impact (42%) or not having an effect either way (15%). That includes majorities of independents (65%) and half of ambivalent Trump voters (50%).
- 2. To voters, Trump’s first 100 days have been defined by chaos, reckless decisions, and abuse of power.**
 - Voters overwhelmingly describe Trump’s first 100 days in negative terms. When asked for a word or short phrase that comes to mind, 62% offer something negative: most commonly, “chaotic,” “a mess,” “a disaster,” or “horrible.” Just 37% describe it positively.
 - Chaos is the dominant impression of this period: 69% say it describes Trump’s presidency so far, including 77% of independents, 74% of those who backed him despite doubts, and 62% of white voters without a college degree. Voters don’t see the constant chaos as a positive disruption, but rather a sign of deeper problems. Voters are far more likely to describe Trump as “reckless” (62%) or “abusing his power and putting himself above the law” (58%) than that he’s “fixing the country” or “putting regular people first” (both under 50%).

Perceptions of Donald Trump and the Trump Administration

How well, if at all, do you think each of the following words or phrases describe Donald Trump and the Trump Administration during his first 100 days as president?

	Describes very well	Describes somewhat well		IND	Ambivalent Trump Voters
Chaotic	49%	20%	69%	77	74
Reckless	46%	16%	62%	71	57
Abusing his power, putting himself above the law	45%	13%	58%	69	43
Rigging the system for big corporations and billionaires	42%	16%	58%	63	41
Dangerous	43%	15%	58%	64	43
Out of control	44%	14%	57%	67	49
Cruel and mean-spirited	40%	14%	54%	68	35
Breaking his promises	32%	16%	48%	51	31
Restoring America's strength around the world	30%	18%	48%	40	66
Fixing the country	27%	19%	46%	38	63
Truly making America great again	27%	19%	45%	32	58
Putting regular people first	22%	19%	42%	30	50

- Trump's abuse of power is mobilizing for Democrats, with 71% choosing it as one of their top three concerns, while independents are more concerned by recklessness (40%). "Chaotic" is the top concern for ambivalent Trump voters. These voters might not have fully turned against Trump, but the instability is a warning sign. The more conflicted Trump voters and independents connect the chaos to real-world consequences, especially economic fallout, the more Trump's support will continue to erode.

3. Confidence in Trump's leadership on energy has dropped significantly; rising energy costs are a big reason why.

- Confidence in Trump to deal with energy policies has dropped sharply since he took office, falling from 53% in December to 42% as he nears the 100-day mark. Swing voters have lost faith (down 13 points, from 49% to 36%) and even soft Republicans show a steep decline from 82% to 61%.

- Trump is blamed for rising electricity costs. Voters are nearly three times more likely to say that he is causing their electricity bills to go up (46%) than down (16%). He is underwater on electricity bills among white noncollege voters and white college grads, Black and Latino voters, and with voters in Republican-held congressional districts. Even on his signature energy issue—gas prices—more voters say he is causing prices to go up (44%) than down (27%). The rest say he is not having an impact.
- When voters hear more about Trump’s energy policies, their biggest concerns center on those that raise costs for everyday Americans. Large majorities are concerned that he eliminated the program that helps low-income households pay energy bills and placed tariffs on Canadian energy that could raise electricity prices. Independents and ambivalent Trump voters are especially troubled by these cost-related policies.
 - *Eliminated the government department that helps low-income households who can’t afford to pay their heating and cooling bills (70% say this gives them major/some concerns, including 46% who say major concerns)*
 - *Placed tariffs on energy imported from Canada, which could mean higher electricity costs for U.S. consumers (70% major/some concerns, including 47% major concerns)*

4. **The more voters learn about Trump’s war on clean energy, the more opposed they are to it.**

- Cuts to clean energy are driving concern for over half the electorate. After reading about 10 of Trump’s energy actions, 53% of voters select a clean energy cut as one of the top three that bother them most. Voters are especially alarmed by ending investments in clean energy manufacturing—threatening over 53,000 jobs—and blocking the production of American-made clean energy.
- Democrats are most likely to be clean-energy priority voters (59%), but concern stretches across party lines: majorities of independents (55%) and nearly half of Republicans (47%) are also troubled by at least one of Trump’s anti-clean energy moves. These concerns have real potential to further erode support within Trump’s base as 57% of voters who only somewhat approve of his overall job performance and 51% of white noncollege voters say they are bothered by his cuts to clean energy.
- Disapproval of Trump’s handling of clean energy was initially muted, largely because 25% of voters reported that they did not know enough to rate him. Once they learn more about his actions, disapproval jumps from 36% to 53%. Swing voters—especially soft Democrats (54% to 84% disapprove) and non-MAGA Republicans (21% to 41% disapprove)—are among the most likely to shift. Younger voters (33% to 54%) and Latino voters (33% to 56%) also show steep increases in disapproval of his actions related to the production of clean energy.

5. **Trump’s record on pollution reinforces voters’ current view that they cannot count on Trump to look out for regular people.**

- Just 42% of voters believe Trump is putting regular people first. That number drops to 30% among independents and only reaches 50% among ambivalent Trump voters.

- Voters are deeply concerned about how Trump’s environmental actions harm regular people particularly by threatening public health and community safety. Their top concerns include:
 - *Got rid of rules that would have protected drinking water from 'forever chemicals' (74% concerned, including 49% major concerns)*
 - *Stopped holding corporate polluters accountable for harming the environment and people's health and coached them on how they could legally avoid clean air rules (73% concerned, 48% major concerns)*
 - *Eliminated a record number of clean air and water protections and rolled back rules that were already reducing mercury, arsenic, and lead pollution from power plants and other toxic pollution from cars, trucks, and buses (71% concerned, 46% major concerns)*
 - *Ended programs to improve people’s health in communities with high levels of pollution, which can cause asthma, heart problems, and other illnesses (71% concerned, 48% major concerns)*
- After hearing more about Trump’s record on the environment, disapproval of his handling of clean air and water protections rises sharply from 36% to 54%. This shift is especially pronounced among independents (35% to 59% disapprove), swing voters (36% to 61%), and voters under age 50 (35% to 58%). Notably, disapproval also increases among white noncollege voters (26% initially to 44%) and in Republican-held congressional districts (32% to 51%).