

Musk Approval is Low, Reflecting Opposition to Cuts

Elon Musk is well underwater in public views of his work for Donald Trump: Thirty-five percent of Americans approve of his job performance for the administration while 57 percent disapprove, roughly on par with ratings for Trump himself.

Resistance to the Trump administration's cuts to the federal government – spearheaded by Musk – are at the root of his negative ratings in this ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll. As reported [Sunday](#), 56 percent think Trump is going too far in laying off federal workers – an effort led by Musk – and as many, 57 percent, think Trump is going too far in closing federal agencies.

Among people who think the layoffs are going too far, Musk has a dismal 6-89 percent rating, approve-disapprove. That compares with 72-16 percent among those who say the level of layoffs is about right or has not gone far enough.

Other, more specific cuts are even less popular. Sixty-six percent of Americans oppose shuttering the U.S. Department of Education, for example, and 77 percent oppose reducing federal funding for medical research. Again, those who oppose such cuts take a dim view of Musk's work.

Views of Musk's work also are related to perceptions of waste in the federal government. Forty-three percent think waste has decreased since Trump took office, and Musk has 67-26 percent approval in this group. Among those who don't see a reduction in waste, however, it's 10-82 percent, approve-disapprove. Perceptions of fraud follow a similar pattern – Musk does better with those who think fraud in the government has decreased, but far worse with the majority (67 percent) who say it has not.

Partisanship is a related factor in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#) with fieldwork by [Ipsos](#). A mere 4 percent of Democrats approve of Musk's work, precisely the same as Trump's approval in this group. Just 32 percent of independents approve. These compare with 73 percent approval for Musk among Republicans (trailing Trump's 83 percent).

Results also show how Musk's popularity is linked to Trump's, whose popularity is the lowest for any president at the 100-day mark in available data since 1945. Eighty percent of those who approve of the way Trump is handling his job also approve of the way Musk is handling his. Among those who disapprove of Trump's performance, 5 percent approve of Musk's.

Tesla [reported](#) last week that its total revenue decreased by 9 percent from one year earlier and its profits were down 71 percent over the first three months of this year. On an investor call, Musk said he'd be [cutting back](#) his government role.

Approval of Musk Among Groups <i>ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll</i>		
	Approve	Disapprove
All	35%	57%
Federal layoffs:		
Trump's going too far (56%)	6	89
Trump's not going too far (44%)	72	16
Waste in government:		
Has decreased under Trump (43%)	67	26
Has not decreased under Trump (56%)	10	82
Views of Trump:		
Approve (39%)	80	12
Disapprove (55%)	5	91
Republicans (30%)	73	19
Independents (29%)	32	60
Democrats (30%)	4	91

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll was conducted online via the probability-based Ipsos KnowledgePanel® April 18-22, 2025, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 2,464 adults. Partisan divisions are 30-30-29 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 2 percentage points, including the design effect. Error margins are larger for subgroups. Sampling error is not the only source of differences in polls.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), with sampling and data collection by Ipsos. See details on ABC News survey methodology [here](#).

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ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases. Media contacts: [Van Scott](#) (212-456-7243) or [Brooks Lancaster](#).

Full results follow.

Q1, 3-9, 11-23, 26-37 previously released. Q2, 24-25 held for release.

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Elon Musk is handling his job in the Trump administration?

	----- Approve -----	----- Disapprove -----	Skip/
	NET Strongly Somewhat	NET Somewhat Strongly	No opinion
4/22/25	35 18 16	57 10 46	9

(If no opinion or skipped: Which way do you lean on how Musk is handling his job in the Trump administration? Leaners are netted with somewhat)

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