

TO Interested parties
FROM Eli Yokley, Analyst — U.S. Politics
DATE July 6, 2026
RE U.S. Political Outlook weekly update (260706)

Trump's approval climbs to its best since spring as the GOP's 2028 front-runner is slipping

THE BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT

Trump posted his best marks since early April, powered by improvements among independents and Republicans. This week, congressional Republicans gained trust on every issue tracked while the generic ballot held at D+3.

<p>OVERALL APPROVAL</p> <p>45/53</p> <p>Net -8 — Trump's best since early April, up 5 on the week. Gains among independents (net -19) and Republicans (+73).</p>	<p>GOP TRUST GAINS</p> <p>12/12</p> <p>Republicans gained congressional-trust ground on all 12 issues this week; Democrats' edge narrowed across the board.</p>	<p>GENERIC BALLOT</p> <p>D+3</p> <p>45-42, steady and flat month over month. Democrats have led all year.</p>	<p>2028 GOP LEAD</p> <p>32%</p> <p>JD Vance's June primary share, off a 39% May peak — and just 37% even in a field without Trump Jr.</p>
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1 Trump's approval climbs to its best net rating since the spring.

Job approval sits at 45% / 53% (net -8), up 5 points on the week and Trump's strongest mark since early April. The move was concentrated among independents, whose net approval rose 5 points to -19, and Republicans, up 6 to +73; Democrats stayed pinned near -81.

2 Republicans gained trust across the board — Democrats' issue edge narrowed on everything.

Voters moved toward congressional Republicans on every issue tracked this week. Democrats' advantage on the economy flipped to a 1-point Republican edge, and their leads on energy (to +2), foreign policy (to even) and national security (now a 7-point GOP edge) all eroded. Democrats held their widest margins on health care (+10) and Medicare and Social Security (+11), but both narrowed. The generic congressional ballot held at D+3 (45-42), flat month over month.

DEEP DIVE · 2028 PRIMARY · REPUBLICAN FIELD

Vance loses altitude — with or without Trump Jr. on the ballot.

With Donald Trump Jr. in the field, JD Vance leads the 2028 Republican primary at **32%** among Republicans (no leaners) in June — but that’s down from a **39%** May peak. Trump Jr. is the only Republican gaining ground month over month, climbing to **22%** from **17%** in March.

Take Trump Jr. off the ballot and Vance still slides — **37%** in June, down from **47%** in May — with no single rival consolidating the room he cedes. Marco Rubio holds at **16%**, with Ron DeSantis and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. at **8%** apiece. The support scatters rather than settling on an heir.

The slide tracks his personal numbers: Vance’s net favorability among registered voters has fallen to **-9**, from **-2** in January. On the Democratic side, Kamala Harris leads at **26%** with favorability recovered to net **+4**, while Gavin Newsom has held a narrow **18-20%** band all year.

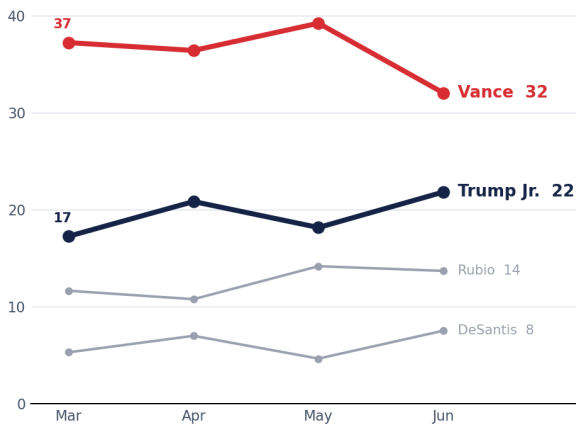
WHAT TO WATCH

Whether a single alternative consolidates the anti-Vance lane or the field stays fragmented into 2027 — and whether Vance’s eroding favorability begins to cap his ceiling even as he leads.

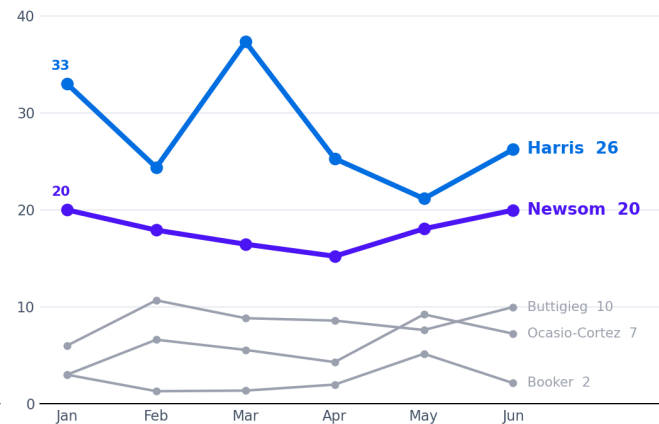
The GOP field with Trump Jr. in it: Vance down, Trump Jr. up

Trump Jr. Gains as Vance Slips Off His Spring Peak; Newsom Stays Flat Behind Harris

GOP primary — Republicans, no leaners



Democratic primary — Democrats, no leaners



Share who would support each candidate if the 2028 primary were held today, by month, through June 2026.

Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence tracking. Registered-voter partisans, no leaners; GOP shown with Trump Jr. in field. Jan-Feb Democratic readings on an adults base.

2028 GOP and Democratic primary preferences among Republican and Democratic registered voters (no leaners), by month, through June 2026; GOP shown with Trump Jr. in the field. Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence · monthly banners.