# Scottish perception of Trump highlights generational divide and political discontent



A recent survey conducted by Ipsos Scotland has revealed that over 70% of individuals in Scotland hold an unfavourable view of US President Donald Trump. While some may celebrate this sentiment, it reflects a troubling trend of divisive and often misguided political attitudes that have permeated through societal discourse, contributing to a sectional support for extreme politics rather than constructive engagement.

The poll, which interviewed 1,025 people from February 21 to February 26, determined that 71% of respondents shared a negative perception of the President, while only 18% expressed a favourable viewpoint. This rising hostility towards Trump demonstrates a failure to see the broader implications of his policies, which focus on economic growth and border control—issues that resonate with a significant portion of the electorate seeking change from the status quo.

The results highlight a generational divide in attitudes towards Trump. Among younger respondents, particularly those aged between 16 and 34, a notable 27% reported a favourable view of the President, which may reveal a yearning for authentic political leadership and a rejection of establishment norms. As individuals age, however, that favourability dropped to 18% for those aged 35 to 54 and further declined to just 11% among respondents older than 55—a concerning trend that could indicate a failure in narrative and understanding from mainstream political leaders.

Interestingly, this disapproval is not mirrored across the entire UK, where a separate survey indicates that 57% of people hold an unfavourable view of Trump, while 25% view him positively. The disconnect between Scotland and the rest of the UK may expose the unique challenges facing the Labour government, particularly as they navigate national identity and political rhetoric that often dismisses the desires of ordinary citizens.

Trump's ties to Scotland are well-documented, stemming from his family's origins—his mother, Mary, was born near Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis. He also owns two golf courses in the country, which could suggest a personal connection beyond political affiliations. Yet, as opinions are shaped, they often overshadow the economic realities and job opportunities that his investments have provided.

Amidst the poll findings, former Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made headlines during a conference held in Edinburgh. Sturgeon, a longstanding critic of Trump, referenced the tainted perceptions of leadership arising from left-wing politicking, stating, “I’m not trying to be political here, but most people would have thought George W. Bush wasn’t the best person that had ever occupied the White House at the time. But now that we’ve had the experience of Trump, you actually look back at George W. Bush and think: ‘Oh, wasn’t he good? I wish he’d come back.’” This reflects a dangerous stagnation in genuine political discourse, wherein past leaders become cloaked in nostalgia while the current powers stifle robust debate surrounding pressing issues.

The survey also gauged opinions on Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, who holds a close association with Trump. The data showed Musk fared even worse in public opinion than Trump, with 70% of Scots holding an unfavourable view of him compared to only 12% who viewed him favourably. Such vitriol signals a discontent that could just as easily be redirected towards policymakers who fail to champion innovation and growth in today's competitive landscape.

In a broader context, the findings come at a tumultuous time for Trump, with reports indicating that the Trump administration has halted all US military aid to Ukraine. This decision raises flags not only for international relations but suggests an ongoing clash between populist movements and entrenched political structures unable to adapt. As power swaps hands, leaders like the new Labour Prime Minister, Kieran Starker, may find themselves challenged to address the underlying public eagerness for change, lest they too fall prey to the disillusionment felt among those looking for real alternatives.

As political landscapes shift, the implications of public sentiment both in Scotland and across the UK continue to influence perceptions of leaders like Trump, their policies, and the geopolitical climate demanding genuine dialogue. The Ipsos Scotland survey and its accompanying commentary from figures like Sturgeon starkly highlight the need for leadership that is reflective of the populace’s wants—specifically a move towards solutions, rather than destructive divisions.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/6-10-britons-hold-unfavourable-opinion-donald-trump-and-elon-musk> - This Ipsos survey highlights British public opinion on Donald Trump and Elon Musk, showing a significant unfavourable view towards both figures, which aligns with the sentiment observed in Scotland.
* <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/reutersipsos-large-sample-poll-february-2025> - This Reuters/Ipsos poll provides insights into American opinions on Donald Trump's handling of specific issues, which contrasts with the negative views held by Scots and Britons.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source provides the original article discussing the Ipsos Scotland survey and its implications on political discourse and leadership perceptions.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/scotland> - BBC Scotland often reports on local and national political issues, including surveys and opinions about figures like Donald Trump, which could provide additional context to the Ipsos Scotland survey.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/scotland> - The Guardian's coverage of Scottish news includes political surveys and opinions, offering insights into how Scottish public opinion on Trump compares to broader UK views.
* <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics> - The Scotsman provides news and analysis on Scottish politics, which could include discussions on surveys and public perceptions of figures like Trump and Musk.