

USAID SHUTDOWN PART 14, April 24: Dispatch from the Field (2)

I am sharing 8 quick points this week.

1. Following the success of the April 5 "Hands-Off" nationwide rally, the April 19 "No Kings" rally took place in over 700 locales (see photos in the montage below). Once again, large numbers turned out across a growing number of locales – all protesting the array of actions being taken that make America less safe, less healthy, less trusted/respected and less prosperous. There will likely be another rally day in two-weeks – May 3. Stay tuned. Also note that protests are taking place each and every day in dozens of places across the country. This is no time to sit on the sidelines.



2. Public pressure continues to be generated at town hall meetings across the country. Another was held earlier this week by Rep. Byron Donalds, a rising star in MAGA-world. Here is how it was reported in the Daily Beast: 'A town hall audience erupted in angry boos and jeers as a Republican congressman tried to defend Elon Musk and his government-slashing DOGE initiative. Florida Rep. Byron Donalds was the latest member of the GOP to face pointed questions from constituents who are angry

about President Donald Trump’s billionaire adviser and his efforts to dismantle key parts of the federal government. “As a member of the oversight committee, what oversights are you imposing on Elon Musk and DOGE?” an audience member asked Donalds to sustained cheering. “What DOGE is doing is they are going through every agency and they are examining any contracts or any lack of efficiencies in spending federal dollars,” Donalds tried to explain, as the audience began yelling “No! No! No!”

MAGA Star Jeered for Trying to Defend DOGE at Wild Town Hall

Byron Donalds
town hall

Monday, April 21
@ 6:30pm
@ Estero High School
27900 River Ranch Rd
Estero, FL

Congressman Byron Donalds
represents SWFL District 19.
The event space has reached capacity

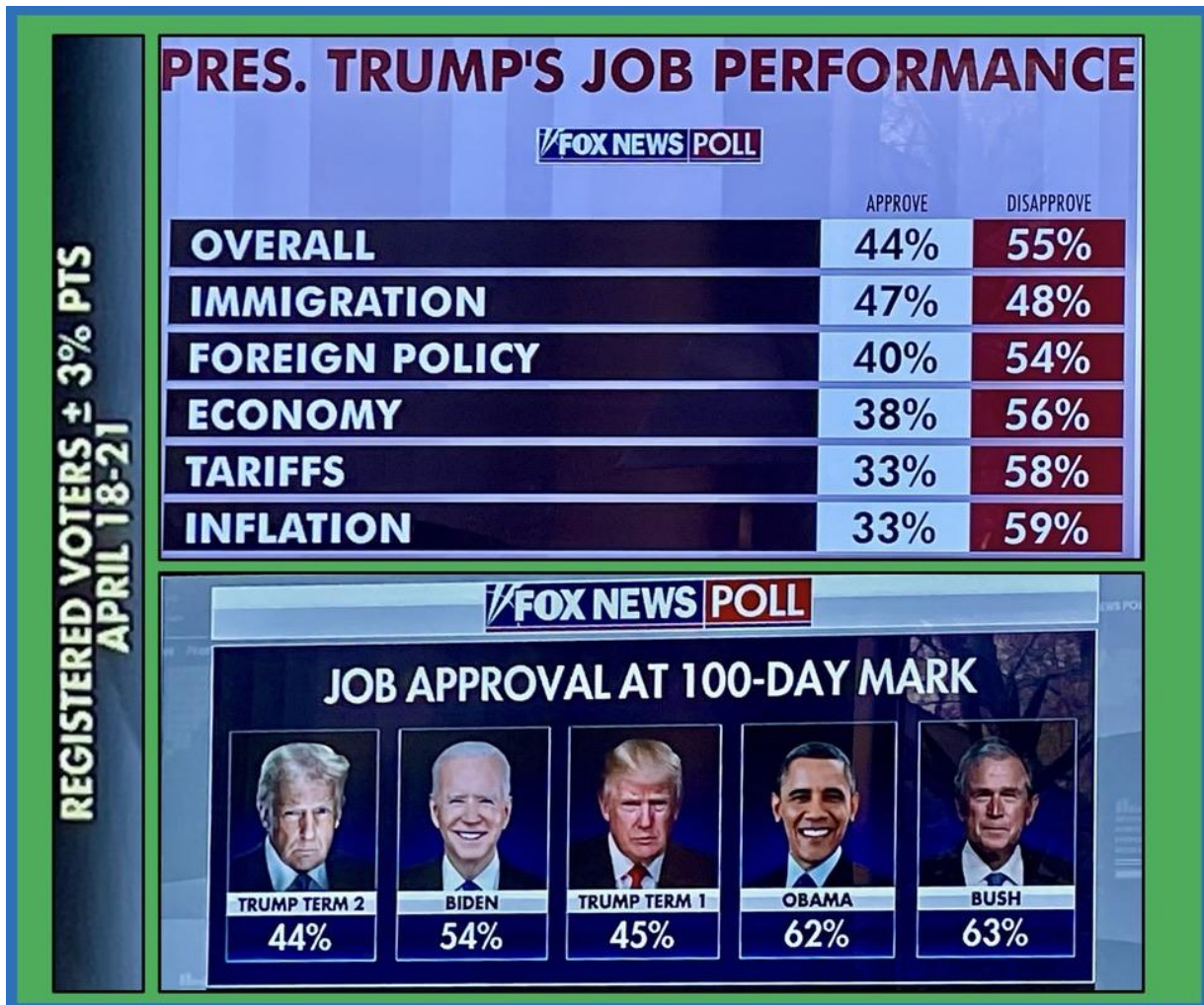
CONGRESSMAN
BYRON DONALDS

DAILY BEAST

3. The latest Reuters-Ipsos poll shows Trump’s performance approval rating at 42 percent, down 5 points since his inauguration. According to Bill Kristol in the Bulwark: “Only a decline in Trump’s popularity can loosen the attachment of some Republican members of Congress to Trump, which is key to really limiting the damage he can do. Such a decline wouldn’t hurt with judges either, who—I don’t want to shock you, dear reader—are also aware of popularity ratings, non-political figures though they

are.” And as I noted in my last dispatch, we are starting to see some cracks in the iron-clad grip that Trump has had over Congressional Republicans. Trump is already experiencing rebukes from an array of court rulings. And law firms and universities (most notably Harvard) are starting to fight back on challenges to their independence. Courage in standing up to Trump is mounting and it is contagious.

4. And this just in from Fox News, At the 100-Day Mark, Trump's performance approval is at 44%, with 55% disapproval -- he is underwater by 11 points. He is underwater by 1 point on Immigration -- and it gets much worse on other big ticket issues, topping out at a whopping 26 points underwater on Inflation. Trump's job approval is lower at this point in his term than any other recent President, by far -- except that he is just under his own approval mark from his first term. The slight lead that Trump held on election day, his so-called mandate, has quickly vanished.



5. Those of us who have worked at USAID have received thanks expressed in various ways from our partners. One eloquent note of thanks comes from the former

Indonesian Ambassador to the US, Dino Patti Djalal. See the video [here](#). This reminded me that around 2010, we at USAID met with a delegation from the government of South Korea who came to thank us for our assistance some 40 years ago. As I recall, they brought a plaque to commemorate that support – which I hope has been preserved somewhere amidst the chaos/confusion that accompanied the shutdown. And today, South Korea has become a donor country and has been working in partnership with USAID in the Asia region. For more on this relationship, you can read the commentary by Michael Schiffer, USAID’s Assistant Administrator for Asia under the Biden Administration [here](#). Just another example of the damage brought on by the mindless dismantling of our agency. How quickly have our alliances crumbled and our standing in the world plummeted!

6. I have two recent updates to share from OneAID Community, dated April 15 and 22 (see attached). The first includes some more info on Peter Marocco, who was recently dismissed from acting head of State/F by Marco Rubio. “Between 2018-2020, the first Trump administration appointed Marocco to four different positions Marocco served in political positions at State, Commerce, Defense, and USAID, with short tenures at each due to his mismanagement and mistreatment of staff. During his first tenure at USAID, Marocco’s directives led to ‘significant waste’ of resources and made USAID ‘less rapid, less trusted, and less efficient’ by halting funds to programs and disrupting operations, according to staff dissent.” Following these failures, Marocco was brought back to lead the dismantling of USAID. Shocking! Except that shock has become the coin of the realm under Trump 2.0.

7. Just before his most recent dismissal, Marocco sent a memo to the Secretary with FY2026 budget recommendations for foreign assistance. In it he calls for a 54% cut in global health programs, “which would sustain some treatment for HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria, but zero funding for family planning and reproductive health, nutrition, vulnerable children, the Global Health Workers Initiative, neglected Tropical Diseases, GAVI, Maternal and Child Health, and the Health Reserve Fund.” This runs counter to Rubio’s stated desire early-on to protect live-saving and humanitarian activities.

8. Continue to make your voices heard. Keep the pressure on and keep the faith! Too much is at stake, both here in America and globally!

--Scott

p.s. For those of you in the DC area, please join the USAID Picnic at the Washington Monument on Friday. Weather will be mid-70s perfect! See the notice below.

Let's celebrate all of our hard work at
USAID and on USAID-funded projects over
the last 63 years.

USAID PICNIC!

**APRIL 25TH AT NOON
NEAR THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT,
JEFFERSON PIER STONE**



**Bring blankets and food/drinks
to share.
All are welcome!**

Organized by Taly Lind, USAID FSO