

**[Border crossing are minimal now]** True, but I don't know why this is a major priority. Undocumented immigrants are half as likely to commit crime as natural-born citizens [1]. Plus, the Trump administration's frequently illegal and largely authoritarian tactics have made immigrants terrified to cross the border. They've also made tourism plummet and prompted Canada, Ireland, The Netherlands, Denmark, the UK, Germany, and Finland to issue various travel advisories warning their citizens about traveling to the US [2]. Some of those are due to gender discrimination, which I maintain is attributable to border enforcement, but some of them are due to regular citizens of those countries getting detained or denied entry for no apparent reason. The real solution here is to make legal immigration easier, which the bi-partisan border bill that Trump killed would have helped with. We should be hiring more immigration judges, not more ICE agents. Everyone would be better off if ICE/HSI could focus on criminals rather than otherwise law-abiding undocumented immigrants. That's not currently the case due to the ridiculous deportation quotas (3000 arrests per day!).

**[2nd quarter gdp is 4.6]** Misleading. The Atlanta Fed estimated 4.6% on June 2. They then changed their estimate to 3.8% on June 5. Quoting them: "GDPNow is not an official forecast of the Atlanta Fed. Rather, it is best viewed as a running estimate of real GDP growth based on available economic data for the current measured quarter." [3]. If we assume 3.8% is accurate (unlikely; we should really wait for the official numbers to come out in July) and combine it with the 0.3% shrinkage from Q1, we get a total of 3.49% for Q1+Q2. The average GDP growth under Biden was 3.2%, despite COVID and with no unnecessary instability due to tariff waffling. This is a marginal improvement at best, and I doubt it will persist through the year. For context, Trump's first term had an average GDP growth of 2.3%.

**[Inflation is down to 2.1%]** Probably true. I will note inflation was only 2.9% when Biden left office. However, there are some minor concerns about the accuracy of the most recent data, given Trump/DOGE cuts to the Bureau of Labor Statistics [4]. In addition, there are indications that this trend might be reversing; for example "Looking at the world's largest economies, [in May 2025] US prices jumped to the greatest extent since September 2022 ... But price pressures moderated in the eurozone, Japan, UK and mainland China." [5]. And January 2025 saw the second-highest inflation/CPI spike post-covid, generally believed to be due to tariff fears [6]. Finally, that doesn't take into account the Big Beautiful Bill: "The effects of President Trump's tariff policies alone offset most of the tax cuts for the bottom 80 percent of Americans. For the bottom 40 percent of Americans, the tariffs impose a cost that is greater than the tax cuts they would receive under this legislation." according to the non-partisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy [7].

**[he is deporting illegals not kidnapping neighbors]** Weird take. Often, undocumented immigrants ARE our neighbors. I don't care if the person living and working next to me is undocumented or not. If they're in the community, working at local businesses, having children, living their life, then they are neighbors. One town over, everyone was up in arms over the arrest of a local restaurant owner and his wife; they immigrated legally, but the green card process takes so long it's been years and they still don't have one. So their visas expired and ICE came in for no good reason [8]. And I cannot stress this enough, so I repeat it here: undocumented immigrants commit crimes at half the rate of natural-born citizens [1]. And that's according to the Cato Institute, a right-wing think tank. Moreover, an estimated 90% of immigrants sent to El Salvador had no significant criminal history [9]. Let alone the fact that the Supreme Court ruled that the deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia was "illegal" [10]. It also ruled that many (probably over a hundred) immigrants sent to CECOT were illegally denied due process, because "the detainees subject to removal orders under the AEA are entitled to notice and an opportunity to challenge their removal." [11]. The examples only grow more egregious. ICE arrested a lawful immigrant who showed up to USCIS to complete his citizenship interview, the final step to become a naturalized citizen [12]. They deported the children of undocumented immigrants (who are citizens by birthright!) on multiple occasions without allowing the parents to confer with each other or with lawyers regarding whether they wanted their children to remain in the US; once more, this is a denial of due process [13]. They continue to detain or arrest the wrong people, even at times without a warrant [14][15][16].

**[the judge that got arrested was breaking the law by housing an illegal that Ice was looking for. Trump pre-warned people they would be arrested if they obstructed ice]** Somewhat true (we won't know until the trial concludes), but potentially misleading (by missing the bigger picture). First, in the case of Judge Jose Cano, he destroyed evidence and deserves jail time (although for completeness, I will note the undocumented immigrants living with him were asylum seekers with hearings scheduled). But I assume we're mostly discussing Judge Hannah Dugan and Eduardo Flores Ruiz; that's certainly who I was referring to. In her case, she was not "housing" someone ICE was looking for. ICE failed to give prior notice of the intended arrest to her, the chief judge, or the security staff. Notably, federal officers are not able to compel state officers to assist in enforcement, and relatedly, federal officers don't necessarily have jurisdiction within a state courthouse. Further, ICE only had an administrative warrant, not a judicial warrant; whether either of those are sufficient in this context is unclear. Most likely, ICE still needed permission from Dugan and the chief Judge. After completing the scheduled hearing for Flores Ruiz, she let him exit via a different door that lead back into the same public hallway the ICE agents were waiting in. They then followed him and arrested him. There are some strange decisions that will hopefully be explained at trial, but this appears to be little more than an intimidation tactic. ICE ignored guidelines strongly suggesting that arrests not be carried out in courthouses. This is an obvious approach to take; if you start arresting and deporting people who follow the law to show up for court proceedings, you're discouraging people from doing that. Show up to court like you're supposed to, and get deported. Patel and other Trump administration officials ignored guidelines against "perp-walking" a judge and discussing an ongoing investigation [17]. The Dugan case is also extraordinary because it involved a criminal complaint instead of a criminal indictment [18]. The government wants to paint Dugan as obstructing justice; the counter claim is that she was protecting the integrity of her court. But, though Dugan's arrest is the most brazen act, it's far from my only point here. Trump has repeatedly called for the impeachment of judges who disagree with him. That's not normal. There isn't some conspiracy of "radical judges" thwarting him. Rather, there are principled judges on both sides of the aisle stopping Trump's rampant power grabs and denouncing every time he exceeds his authority. For example, the Supreme Court, which is 6 to 3 right leaning, including 3 Trump appointed justices, ruled 9-0 that the deportation of Kilmar Abrego Garcia was illegal [10]. If he wants to stop losing in court, he should stop breaking the law and the Constitution.

**[he has already been able to negotiate better tariff deals with other countries. These deals take time and more deals will come.]** Mostly false. I think the UK tariff is lower now than before. However, under Biden, China had a 21.1% tariff on the US; currently, after trump's "negotiations," it sits at 32.6%. That's worse. Were the trade deals Trump negotiated under his first term (the US-China Phase One Trade Agreement, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement) bad? Why did he make those deals in the first place? I'll also note that, according to the non-partisan Tax Foundation, "In total, the imposed tariffs would reduce market income by 1.1 percent in 2026 ... and amount to an average tax increase per US household of \$1,183 in 2025 and \$1,445 in 2026." [19]. Further, there is no plan; he can't simultaneously claim the tariffs will bring back manufacturing and give leverage in negotiating. If you negotiate away the tariffs, they can't bring back manufacturing.

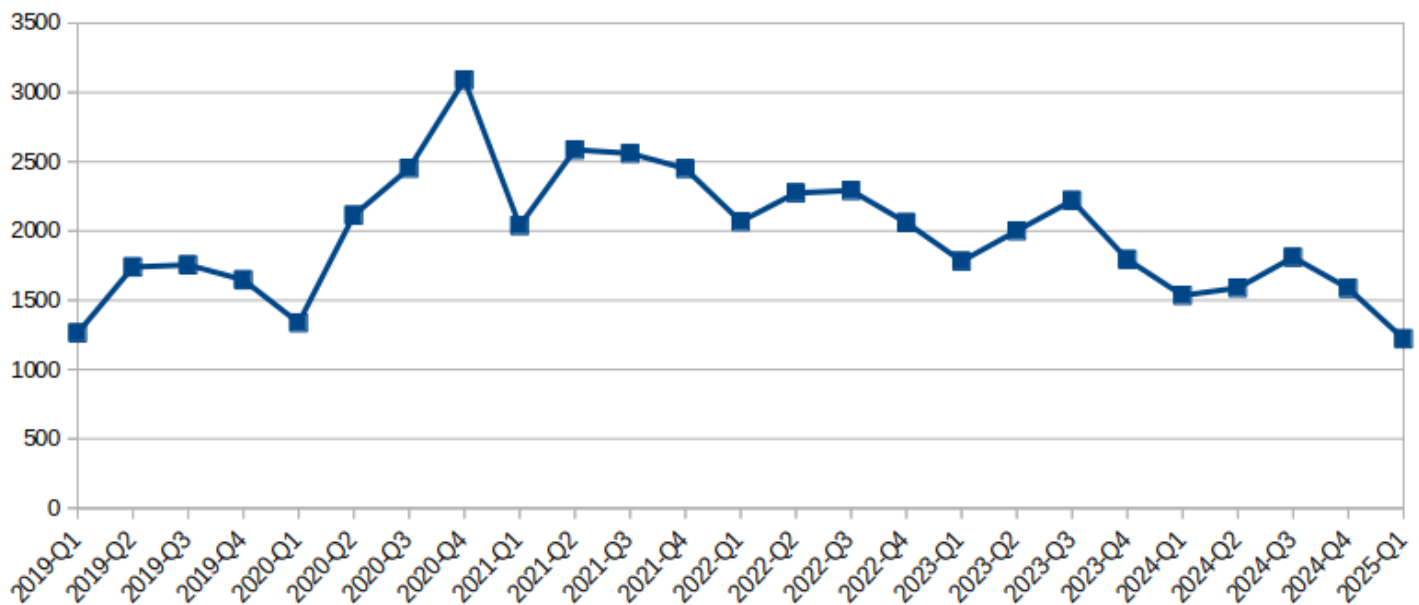
**[enforcing the laws on the books is actually normal]** I generally agree. And it would be great if the Trump administration were only doing that. Instead, they continually break the law. Illegally impounding funds appropriated by congress [20]. Illegally sanctioning law firms who disagree with him [21]. Unconstitutionally attempting to break the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment and end birthright citizenship. Illegally deporting Kilmar Abrego Garcia [10]. Saying "I don't know" when asked if he needed to uphold the US Constitution to give undocumented immigrants due process [22]. Calling for "the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, *even those found in the Constitution*" when he wrongfully claimed the 2020 election was stolen [23]. Basically admitting to submitting false electors in an attempt to steal the 2020 election [24]. Pardoning Jan 6 rioters who assaulted and killed police officers and others with histories of domestic violence and rape [25]. Profiting off cryptocurrency in an enormous scam [26] and selling access to the President via that crypto [27]. Accepting an outrageous gift from Qatar in violation of the Emoluments Clause [28]. Being found civilly liable for raping E. Jean Carroll by a 9-0 jury [29]. Addressing any of that is massively more important than deporting undocumented immigrants who have lived here for years and never committed a crime other than illegal entry, and some of whom have a wife and kids.

**[You see it as Fascism but I see it as peace through strength. All the countries around the world depend on our strength to come and save them from actual dictatorships and attacks like Ukraine.]** I like having a big military. But peace for who? Not Palestinians. Not Syrians. Not immigrants. Not transgender folks. Not gay people. But it definitionally is fascism; it meets 13 of 14 tenets [30]. Heck, I'll even go through each one:

1. The cult of tradition: There are only 2 genders. Christian values should drive government and school. The media used to be unbiased. There aren't any good role models anymore.
2. The rejection of modernism: Scientists have an agenda and can rarely be trusted. Vaccines are ineffective and cause autism. Sex and gender are the same thing.
3. The cult of action for actions' sake: More executive orders than any president in history. "Flood the zone." The intentionally indiscriminate DOGE cuts. Repeal Obamacare without an alternative.
4. Disagreement is treason: Constantly firing his attorneys and white house staff. Feuding with Elon Musk. Calling for the impeachment of judges. Threatening to open up libel laws. Banning law firms who disagree with him.
5. Fear of difference: Calling for mass deportation. Denying due process to undocumented immigrants. Calling them rapists and murderers.
6. Appeal to a frustrated middle class: Democrats have ruined the economy. Inflation is rampant. Other countries are taking advantage of us. Immigrants are stealing jobs. Taxes are fueling government waste. Drugs and healthcare cost too much.
7. Obsession with a plot: Claiming the 2020 election was stolen. The mainstream media is lying. Judges are radical and out to get him.
8. The enemy is at the same time strong and weak: The democrats were able to steal the 2020 election, but not able to stop him from getting elected in 2024. Social media is censoring conservatives, but can't stop the "truth" from getting out. Trans men in the military are weak, but trans men are too strong to compete in women's sports.
9. Pacifism is trafficking with the enemy: ?
10. Contempt for the weak: American exceptionalism. Pull yourself up by your bootstraps. Immigration is a privilege and undocumented immigrants are ungrateful. Disabilities and mental health issues are fundamentally debilitating and a sign of failure.
11. Everybody is educated to become a hero: The American Dream. Opposing mask mandates and/or intending to catch COVID. Enthusiasm to suffer under tariffs as a form of sacrifice for an imagined payoff. Erasing or downplaying historical tragedies like slavery.
12. Machismo: Condemnation of homosexuality, transgenderism, non-monogomy, etc. particularly as destroying masculinity. Wanting to "rebuild the military." Bragging about "grabbing them by the pussy." Opposing the teaching of consent in sexual education.
13. Selective populism: Constant assertion of a "mandate." Denial of 2020 election. Ignoring polls he doesn't like.
14. Newspeak: "Alternative" facts. The advent of "woke." Banning words like "gender identity," "diversity," and "climate crisis" from official communication and documents.

**[Also Don't forget Trump was elected by a democratic process. He even won majority vote this time around.]** True but wildly misleading. That gives him the right to be the President. It doesn't give him the right to break the law or violate the Constitution. Besides, his popular vote margins are embarrassingly low. The number in parentheses is the total vote count in favor of the candidate. In 2024 Trump won by +1.48% (77.3 mil), putting him in 50<sup>th</sup> place out of 60 elections. In 2016 it was even worse; he won by -2.09% (63.0 mil), putting in 58<sup>th</sup> place out of 60. Biden got +4.45% (81.3 mil), which is 42<sup>nd</sup> place. Therefore, Biden had more of a mandate than Trump did or does, both by percentage and raw vote count.

**[I left out murder rates were just announced yesterday at an all time low. Probably because law enforcement and ice have people on the run and they know they will now be held accountable.]** Mostly false. The official FBI data lags by a couple years, so we must be using estimates to establish the fact you cite. I tried going through a few news articles, and eventually ended up at the Major Cities Chiefs Association [31]. Based on their data for homicides, graphed below, the current low number appears to be a continuation of the trend already happening under Biden. It looks like we might finally have returned to pre-COVID levels, which is good. Unless it continues to decrease throughout this year, or suddenly decreases faster, I don't see a reason to assume this had anything to do with Trump's "tough on crime" agenda.



**[So with the announcement of that statistic I would argue less people are actually dying as a result of his policies.]** False. As stated above, there's no reason to believe the drop in homicides was due to a Trump policy. But, beyond that, an estimated 15,000 people, including over 1,500 children, have already died due to Trump's USAID cuts [32]. If the cuts remain, then over the next decade "One million children will not be treated for severe acute malnutrition. Up to 166,000 people will die from malaria. New cases of tuberculosis will go up by 30%. Two hundred thousand more children will be paralyzed by polio" [33]. If we look at the Big Beautiful Bill, the non-partisan "Congressional Budget Office estimates that 10.3 million people would lose their Medicaid coverage by 2034 under the GOP bill, about half of them due to the work requirement provision ... Outside projections are even higher: The left-leaning Center for Budget Policy and Priorities estimated that as many as 14.4 million people could lose benefits in the next decade." [34][35]. Regarding food assistance, according to the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "nearly 11 million people could see at least some cut in benefits due to expansions to burdensome SNAP paperwork requirements included in the legislation. About 9.2 million of these people would be at risk because, for the first time, the plan applies the requirements to families with school-aged children and older Americans." [36].

- [1] <https://www.cato.org/policy-analysis/illegal-immigrant-incarceration-rates-2010-2023>
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