



## Today in Impeachment

A bulletin on recent news

Vox and Pew Research on poll numbers -- is Trump playing a good hand badly?

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**8/3/18 Bulletin** – At [VOX](#), editor Ezra Klein weighs in on Trump’s “messy” poll numbers, arguing he’s “playing a strong hand, poorly.” One of the most intriguing graphics shows a range of poll results for the first 479 days in office – for Presidents from Truman to Trump -- with a focus on the 50% of polls that appear most representative. Two points emerge: first, as Klein points out, Trump’s results are the most stable of any President in the sense they are in the narrowest range. But second, Trump’s results are also the lowest of any President in the post-WWII era. Klein draws this conclusion: “Judged on the economy, which is the traditional driver of presidential approval, Donald Trump’s poll numbers should be much, much higher than they are now. Far from finding a winning strategy, he seems to have found a losing one despite holding a winning hand.” A recent [Pew Research FactTank” feature](#) by Amina Dunn notes the same consistency, but focuses on how sharp the partisan divisions are. The key chart from that article shows a sharp increase in the baseline partisan division on approval ratings began with Reagan, and (with an exception in the first half of G.H.W. Bush’s term,) has remained very wide, but never wider than with President Trump. One key feature of Trump’s rating is that there was no real “honeymoon period” during which the opposing party’s approval was not rock-bottom. For whatever reason, Trump started out low (after the briefest post-inaugural “honeymoon”) – and he’s stayed low.

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