



## Undefeated Trump keeps steamrolling GOP primaries

President Trump's endorsement machine is running through the 2026 Republican primaries without a single loss, giving the president another powerful reminder to GOP lawmakers that the party's base is still firmly aligned with him and the America First movement.

Trump-backed candidates have gone 118-for-118 in Republican House, Senate and gubernatorial primaries so far this cycle, [according](#) to a Fox News tracker, with victories in 110 congressional contests — 101 House races and nine Senate races — along with eight gubernatorial races. Only about one-third of Republican primaries have been completed, but the early results have already made clear that Trump's influence inside the GOP has not faded. If anything, it has hardened into the central force of the party.

"After years of weak globalists and elitists leading our party, President Trump transformed the GOP into the party of the working class," Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH) [told](#) the New York Post on Wednesday. "Newsflash to those who still have not caught on: Support the America First agenda or lose your election."

That message has landed hardest on Republicans who crossed Trump or drifted away from the base. Sens. John Cornyn (R-TX) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA) both lost their primaries, as did Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY), one of Trump's most persistent Republican critics in the House. Cassidy's May 16 defeat was especially notable, making him the first Republican senator since Indiana's Richard Lugar in 2012 to lose renomination from GOP voters in a regular election cycle.

The president's influence has also reached deep into state politics. Earlier this month, Trump-backed challengers defeated five of seven Indiana state senators who opposed him on mid-decade redistricting, though one of those contests remains subject to a recount. The result sent the same message from statehouses to Capitol Hill: Republican voters are not treating Trump's endorsements as routine campaign gestures. They are treating them as a clear signal about who is aligned with the movement and who is not.

“The Republicans have real leadership — that’s unquestionable,” Democrat consultant Hank Sheinkopf said. “And the party faithful respond to him, respond to that leader, Donald Trump, and it’s his political party.”

Trump has endorsed candidates in 295 Republican primaries this cycle, leaving plenty of room for more intervention before November. He has already warned Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO) over her support for Massie, though a source familiar with Trump’s thinking told the Post on Wednesday that the president is “not focused on Boebert right now” and described that as “a next-cycle [2028] thing.” The source said Trump could still weigh in on the Georgia Senate race, several House targets and additional statewide contests.

The scale of Trump’s 2026 endorsement streak is far larger than in his first midterm as president. In 2018, he posted a 95% success rate in GOP primaries across just 37 endorsements, according to Ballotpedia. His candidates won 93% of Republican primaries in 2022, when he was out of office, and 96% in 2024. This year’s perfect record, at least so far, shows a president whose control over the party has become more organized, more disciplined and more difficult for Republican holdouts to ignore.

Henry Olsen, an elections analyst and senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, said Trump’s role as the GOP’s dominant primary force is likely to extend beyond the remainder of his second term. Olsen said Trump has paired a commanding political personality with a worldview that gave voice to voters who believed their views had been ignored by party elites.

Trump-backed candidates, Olsen said, are defined by a more “aggressive” nationalism focused on “pursuing American interests but not international alliance interests,” along with a willingness to challenge “non-American” cultural and institutional priorities promoted by powerful public and private forces.

“That is now a majority view among Republicans,” Olsen said. “That philosophical change will outlast Trump’s personal endorsement.”

Trump’s political team has used that power both to settle scores and to prevent bruising primaries in races where Republicans see pickup opportunities. In Michigan, Trump’s early endorsement of Mike Rogers for Senate helped keep Rep. Bill Huizenga out of the race, allowing Republicans to avoid a messy fight in a state central to their 2026 map.

The White House political operation has also been more selective this cycle, with potential endorsees generally reviewed before Trump makes a public announcement. That reflects lessons from past elections, when some Republicans argued that weaker nominees hurt the party in competitive general election races.

Trump's preferred candidates won general elections at an 89% rate in 2024, 83% in 2022 and 78% in 2020, according to Ballotpedia. In the 2018 midterms, 59% of Trump-backed candidates won.

The larger test will come on Nov. 3, when Republicans face the usual midterm headwinds and Democrats try to turn the election into a national referendum on Trump. Sheinkopf argued that the GOP primary verdict has already been settled in Trump's favor, but the general election will be a broader fight over the president, the Iran war and costs facing voters.