



West End entering season with confidence, 19 starters

SPORTS, 1B

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President Donald Trump speaks at the White House on July 6 in Washington, DC. ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

Where Trump's approval rating stands in AL today

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The nation's 250th Independence Day highlighted the political divide that has defined much of President Donald Trump's second term.

As Americans celebrated the 4th of July, and debated Trump's vision for the country following his holiday address, new polling offers a look at where Alabama voters stand on the president's job performance.

President Trump's approval rating has remained remarkably steady in Alabama, despite a decline, and new polling shows the state remains a steady

source of support for Trump.

What is Donald Trump's approval rating today in Alabama?

Civiqs, which tracks presidential approval and provides state-level estimates, shows President Trump's approval rating has gradually declined since the start of his second term, though a majority of the voters still approve of his job performance.

At his Jan. 20 inauguration, 59% of Alabama voters approved of Trump, while 37% disapproved and 4% were unsure.

As of July 7, 52% approved, 41% disapproved and 7% were unsure.

Here's how the president's national approval ratings look:

- AP News' poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research says Trump's approval rating stands at 62% against and 37% for him as of June 11.
- Fox News' poll says Trump stands at 60% against, and 39% for as of June 12-15.
- The New York Times' poll, which calculates a daily average of several other polls, says Trump stands at 58% disapproval, 38% approval as of July 7.
- Reuters/Ipsos' poll says Trump stands at 64% disapproval, 33% approval

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State's oldest golf course is over 120 years old

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USA TODAY NETWORK

Tucked into a quiet Birmingham neighborhood, a century-old golf course hums to life each morning as it has since the days of horse-drawn carts and wooden clubs. It's not famous, but it's the first, and for many, still the favorite.

For more than 120 years, this course has been more than a place to play. It's a walk through Alabama's golf history.

What is the oldest golf course in Alabama?

Established in 1903, Highland Park Golf Course has been a part of Birmingham's landscape for more than a century. Tucked into the city's Highland Avenue corridor, the 18-hole, par-70 course blends history with a healthy challenge.

With narrow, rolling fairways, uphill approach shots and winding creeks, it offers a scenic and sometimes sneaky test for golfers of all skill levels. GOLF Magazine even names it one of the top 100 value courses in the country.

This history of Highland Park Golf Course

Highland Park Golf Course has roots that date back to its original days as the Country Club of Birmingham. The course opened to the public in 1927, offering everyday golfers the opportunity to walk the same fairways once reserved for club members.

In 1955, it was renamed in honor of Charley Boswell, a Birmingham native,

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Cyclosporiasis infections spreading across the U.S. this summer

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USA TODAY NETWORK

Health officials are tracking a growing number of cyclosporiasis infections across the United States this summer, with dozens of illnesses and multiple hospitalizations reported in at least 17 states.

While no outbreak has been reported in Alabama so far, past patterns suggest residents should stay alert as fresh pro-

duce consumption peaks during the summer months.

As of mid-June 2026, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 145 domestically acquired cases of cyclosporiasis, resulting in 20 hospitalizations. No deaths have been reported.

CDC officials say the cases appear to be spread across multiple clusters rather than tied to a single nationwide source, meaning investigations are ongoing to identify potential contaminat-

ed foods.

Alabama has seen Cyclospora infections before

The illness is not new to Alabama. In 2023, the Alabama Department of Public Health issued a statewide health advisory after reporting a sharp increase in infections. At the time, 139 cases were reported, compared with 19 in 2022. Cases later fell to 30 in 2024 and 21 in 2025. One case has been re-

ported so far in 2026.

What Alabama residents should watch for this summer

Even without confirmed local clusters in Alabama, health experts say seasonal travel and national food distribution systems mean infections can appear anywhere.

Public health officials recommend

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