

**Donald John Trump** (born June 14, 1946) is an American politician, media personality, and businessman who is the 47th [president of the United States](#). A member of the [Republican Party](#), he served as the 45th president from 2017 to 2021.

Born into a wealthy family in the New York City borough of Queens, Trump graduated from the [University of Pennsylvania](#) in 1968 with a [bachelor's degree](#) in economics. He became the president of his family's real estate business in 1971, renamed it [the Trump Organization](#), and began acquiring and building skyscrapers, hotels, casinos, and golf courses. He launched side ventures, many licensing the Trump name, and filed for six business bankruptcies in the 1990s and 2000s. From 2004 to 2015, he hosted the reality television show [The Apprentice](#), bolstering his fame as a billionaire. Presenting himself as a political outsider, Trump won the [2016 presidential election](#) against [Democratic Party](#) nominee [Hillary Clinton](#).

During his first presidency, Trump imposed [a travel ban](#) on seven Muslim-majority countries, expanded the [Mexico–United States border wall](#), and enforced [a family separation policy](#) on the border. He rolled back environmental and business regulations, signed the [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](#), and appointed three Supreme Court justices. In foreign policy, Trump withdrew the U.S. from agreements on climate, trade, and Iran's nuclear program, and initiated [a trade war with China](#). In response to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#) from 2020, he downplayed its severity, contradicted health officials, and signed the [CARES Act](#). After losing the [2020 presidential election](#) to [Joe Biden](#), Trump [attempted to overturn the result](#), culminating in the [January 6 Capitol attack](#) in 2021. He was impeached in 2019 for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, and in 2021 for incitement of insurrection; the Senate acquitted him both times.

In 2023, Trump was found liable in civil cases [for sexual abuse and defamation](#) and [for business fraud](#). He was found guilty [of falsifying business records](#) in 2024, making him the first U.S. president convicted of a felony. After winning the [2024 presidential election](#) against [Kamala Harris](#), he was sentenced to a penalty-free [discharge](#), and two felony indictments against him for [retention of classified documents](#) and [obstruction of the 2020 election](#) were dismissed without prejudice. A [racketeering case](#) related to the 2020 election in Georgia is pending.

Trump began his second presidency by [pardoning around 1,500 January 6 rioters](#) and initiating [mass layoffs of federal workers](#). He [imposed tariffs on nearly all countries](#), including large tariffs on China, Canada, and Mexico. Many of his administration's actions—including [intimidation of political opponents and civil society](#), deportations of immigrants, and extensive use of executive orders—have drawn over 300 [lawsuits challenging their legality](#). High-profile cases have underscored his broad interpretation of the [unitary executive theory](#) and have led to significant conflicts with the federal courts.

Trump is the central figure of [Trumpism](#), and his faction is dominant within the Republican Party. Many of his comments and actions have been characterized as racist or misogynistic, and he has made false and misleading statements and promoted conspiracy theories to a degree unprecedented in American politics. Trump's actions, especially in his second term, have been described as authoritarian and contributing to [democratic backsliding](#). After his first term, scholars and historians [ranked him](#) as one of the worst presidents in American history.

## Early life and education



At [New York Military Academy](#), 1964

Donald John Trump was born on June 14, 1946, at [Jamaica Hospital](#) in the New York City borough of [Queens](#), the fourth child of [Fred Trump](#) and [Mary Anne MacLeod Trump](#).<sup>[1]</sup> He is of German and Scottish descent.<sup>[2]</sup> He grew up with his older siblings, [Maryanne](#), [Fred Jr.](#), and Elizabeth, and his younger brother, [Robert](#), in a mansion in the [Jamaica Estates](#) neighborhood of Queens.<sup>[3]</sup> Fred Trump paid his children each about \$20,000 a year, equivalent to \$265,000 a year in 2024. Trump was a millionaire in inflation-adjusted dollars by age eight.<sup>[4]</sup><sup>[a]</sup>

Trump attended the private [Kew-Forest School](#) through seventh grade. He was a difficult child and showed an early interest in his father's business. His father enrolled him in [New York Military Academy](#), a private boarding school, to complete secondary school.<sup>[5]</sup> Trump considered a show business career but instead in 1964 enrolled at [Fordham University](#).<sup>[6]</sup> Two years later, he transferred to the [Wharton School](#) of the [University of Pennsylvania](#), graduating in May 1968 with a [Bachelor of Science](#) in economics.<sup>[7]</sup><sup>[8]</sup> He was exempted from the draft during the Vietnam War due to a claim of [bone spurs](#) in his heels.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Business career

Main article: [Business career of Donald Trump](#)

Further information: [Business projects of Donald Trump in Russia](#) and [Tax returns of Donald Trump](#)

## Real estate

Starting in 1968, Trump was employed at his father's real estate company, Trump Management, which owned racially segregated middle-class rental housing in New York City's outer boroughs.<sup>[10]</sup><sup>[11]</sup> In 1971, his father made him president of the company and he began using [the Trump Organization](#) as an [umbrella brand](#).<sup>[12]</sup> [Roy Cohn](#) was Trump's [fixer](#), lawyer, and mentor<sup>[13]</sup> for 13 years in the 1970s and 1980s.<sup>[14]</sup> In 1973, Cohn helped Trump countersue the U.S. government for \$100 million (equivalent to \$708 million in 2024)<sup>[15]</sup> over its charges that Trump's properties had racially discriminatory practices. Trump's counterclaims were dismissed, and the government's case was settled with the Trumps signing a consent decree agreeing to desegregate; four years later, Trumps again faced the courts when they were found in contempt of the decree.<sup>[16]</sup> Before age thirty, he showed his propensity for litigation, no matter the outcome and cost; even when he lost, he described the case as a win.<sup>[17]</sup> Helping Trump projects,<sup>[18]</sup> Cohn was a [consigliere](#) whose Mafia connections controlled construction unions.<sup>[19]</sup> Cohn introduced political consultant [Roger Stone](#) to Trump, who enlisted Stone's services to deal with the federal government.<sup>[20]</sup> Between 1991 and 2009, he filed for [Chapter 11](#) bankruptcy protection for six of his businesses: the [Plaza Hotel](#) in Manhattan, the casinos in [Atlantic City, New Jersey](#), and the [Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts](#) company.<sup>[21]</sup><sup>[22]</sup>

In 1992, Trump, his siblings Maryanne, Elizabeth, and Robert, and his cousin [John W. Walter](#), each with a 20 percent share, formed All County Building Supply & Maintenance Corp. The company had no offices and is alleged to have been a shell company for paying the vendors providing services and supplies for Trump's rental units, then billing those services and supplies to Trump Management with markups of 20–50 percent and more. The owners shared the proceeds generated by the markups. The increased costs were used to get state approval for increasing the rents of his rent-stabilized units. In January 1994, the siblings formed Apartment Management Associates and took over the management fees formerly collected by Trump Management. As well as inflating rents, the schemes served to transfer assets from Fred Trump to his children and nephew and lower the tax burden.<sup>[23]</sup>

## Manhattan and Chicago developments



In 1985 with a model of one of his aborted Manhattan development projects<sup>[24]</sup>

Trump attracted public attention in 1978 with the launch of his family's first Manhattan venture: the renovation of the derelict [Commodore Hotel](#), adjacent to Grand Central Terminal.<sup>[25]</sup> The financing was facilitated by a \$400 million city property tax abatement arranged for him by his father who also, jointly with [Hyatt](#), guaranteed a \$70 million bank construction loan.<sup>[11][26]</sup> The hotel reopened in 1980 as the [Grand Hyatt Hotel](#),<sup>[27]</sup> and that same year, he obtained rights to develop [Trump Tower](#), a mixed-use skyscraper in Midtown Manhattan.<sup>[28]</sup> The building houses the headquarters of the Trump Corporation and Trump's [PAC](#) and was his primary residence until 2019.<sup>[29]</sup> In 1988, Trump acquired the Plaza Hotel with a loan from a consortium of 16 banks.<sup>[30]</sup> The hotel filed for bankruptcy protection in 1992, and a reorganization plan was approved a month later, with the banks taking control of the property.<sup>[31]</sup>

In 1995, he defaulted on over \$3 billion of bank loans, and the lenders seized the Plaza Hotel along with most of his other properties in a "vast and humiliating restructuring" that allowed him to avoid personal bankruptcy.<sup>[32][33]</sup> The lead bank's attorney said of the banks' decision that they "all agreed that he'd be better alive than dead".<sup>[32]</sup> In 1996, Trump acquired and renovated the mostly vacant 71-story skyscraper at [40 Wall Street](#), later rebranded as the Trump Building.<sup>[34]</sup> In the early 1990s, he won the right to develop a 70-acre (28 ha) tract in the [Lincoln Square](#) neighborhood near the Hudson River. Struggling with debt from other ventures in 1994, he sold most of his interest in the project to Asian investors, who financed the project's completion, [Riverside South](#).<sup>[35]</sup> Trump's last major construction project was the 92-story mixed-use [Trump International Hotel and Tower](#) in Chicago, which opened in 2008. In 2024, [The New York Times](#) and [ProPublica](#) reported that the Internal Revenue Service was investigating whether he had twice written off losses

incurred through construction cost overruns and lagging sales of residential units in the building he had declared to be worthless on his 2008 tax return.[36]

## Atlantic City casinos



Entrance of the Trump Taj

### Mahal in Atlantic City

In 1984, Trump opened *Harrah's at Trump Plaza*, a hotel and casino, with financing and management help from the *Holiday Corporation*.<sup>[37]</sup> It was unprofitable, and he paid Holiday \$70 million in May 1986 to take sole control.<sup>[38]</sup> In 1985, he bought the unopened Atlantic City Hilton Hotel and renamed it *Trump Castle*.<sup>[39]</sup> Both casinos filed for *Chapter 11 bankruptcy* protection in 1992.<sup>[40]</sup> Trump bought a third Atlantic City venue in 1988, the *Trump Taj Mahal*. It was financed with \$675 million in *junk bonds* and completed for \$1.1 billion, opening in April 1990.<sup>[37]</sup> He filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in 1991. Under the provisions of the restructuring agreement, he gave up half his initial stake and personally guaranteed future performance.<sup>[41]</sup> To reduce his \$900 million of personal debt, he sold the *Trump Shuttle* airline; his megayacht, the *Trump Princess*, which had been leased to his casinos and kept docked; and other businesses.<sup>[42]</sup> In 1995, Trump founded Trump Hotels & Casino Resorts (THCR), which assumed ownership of the Trump Plaza.<sup>[43]</sup> THCR purchased the Taj Mahal and the Trump Castle in 1996 and went bankrupt in 2004 and 2009, leaving him with 10 percent ownership.<sup>[37]</sup> He remained chairman until 2009.<sup>[44]</sup>

## Clubs

In 1985, Trump acquired the *Mar-a-Lago* estate in Palm Beach, Florida.<sup>[45]</sup> In 1995, he converted the estate into a private club with an initiation fee and annual dues. He continued to use a wing of the house as a private residence.<sup>[46]</sup> He declared the club his primary residence in 2019.<sup>[29]</sup> He began *building and buying golf courses* in 1999, owning 17 golf courses by 2016.<sup>[47]</sup>

## Licensing the Trump name

See also: *List of things named after Donald Trump*

The Trump Organization often licensed the Trump name for consumer products and services, including foodstuffs, apparel, learning courses, and home furnishings.<sup>[48]</sup> Over 50 licensing or management deals involved Trump's name, generating at least \$59 million for his companies.<sup>[49]</sup> By 2018, only two consumer goods companies continued to license his name.<sup>[48]</sup> During the 2000s, Trump licensed his name to residential property developments worldwide, 40 of which were never built.<sup>[50]</sup>

## Side ventures





With [New Jersey](#)  
[Generals](#) quarterback [Doug Flutie](#) (second from left) at a 1985  
 press conference in [Trump Tower](#)

In 1970, Trump invested \$70,000 to receive billing as coproducer of a Broadway comedy.<sup>[51]</sup> In September 1983, he purchased the [New Jersey Generals](#), a team in the [United States Football League](#). After the 1985 season, the league folded, largely due to his attempt to move to a fall schedule (when it would have competed with the [National Football League](#) [NFL] for audience) and trying to force a merger with the NFL by bringing an antitrust suit.<sup>[52]</sup> Trump and his Plaza Hotel hosted several boxing matches at the [Atlantic City Convention Hall](#).<sup>[37][53]</sup> In 1989 and 1990, he lent his name to the [Tour de Trump](#) cycling stage race, an attempt to create an American equivalent of European races such as the [Tour de France](#) or the [Giro d'Italia](#).<sup>[54]</sup> From 1986 to 1988, he purchased significant blocks of shares in various public companies while suggesting that he intended to take over the company and then sold his shares for a profit,<sup>[55]</sup> leading some observers to think he was engaged in [greenmail](#).<sup>[56]</sup> The *New York Times* found that he initially made millions of dollars in such stock transactions, but "lost most, if not all, of those gains after investors stopped taking his takeover talk seriously".<sup>[55]</sup>



Trump's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

In 1988, Trump purchased the [Eastern Air Lines Shuttle](#), financing the purchase with \$380 million (equivalent to \$1010 million in 2024)<sup>[15]</sup> in loans from a syndicate of 22 banks. He renamed the airline [Trump Shuttle](#) and operated it until 1992.<sup>[57]</sup> He defaulted on his loans in 1991, and ownership passed to the banks.<sup>[58]</sup> In 1996, he purchased the [Miss Universe](#) pageants, including [Miss USA](#) and [Miss Teen USA](#).<sup>[59]</sup> Due to disagreements with CBS about scheduling, he took both pageants to NBC in 2002.<sup>[60][61]</sup> In 2007, he received a star on the [Hollywood Walk of Fame](#) for his work as producer of Miss Universe.<sup>[62]</sup> NBC and Univision dropped the pageants in June 2015 in reaction to his comments about Mexican immigrants.<sup>[63]</sup>

In 2005, Trump cofounded [Trump University](#), a company that sold real estate seminars for up to \$35,000. After New York State authorities notified the company that its use of "university" violated state law (as it was not an academic institution), its name was changed to the Trump Entrepreneur Initiative in 2010.<sup>[64]</sup> In 2013, the State of New York filed a \$40 million civil suit against Trump University, alleging that the company made false statements and defrauded consumers. Additionally, two class actions were filed in federal court against Trump and his companies. Internal documents revealed that employees were instructed to use a hard-sell approach, and former employees testified

that Trump University had defrauded or lied to its students.<sup>[65]</sup> Shortly after he won the 2016 presidential election, he agreed to pay a total of \$25 million to settle the three cases.<sup>[66]</sup>

## Foundation

*Main article: [Donald J. Trump Foundation](#)*

The Donald J. Trump Foundation was a [private foundation](#) established in 1988.<sup>[67]</sup> From 1987 to 2006, Trump gave his foundation \$5.4 million, which had been spent by the end of 2006. After donating a total of \$65,000 in 2007–2008, he stopped donating any personal funds to the charity,<sup>[68]</sup> which received millions from other donors, including \$5 million from [Vince McMahon](#).<sup>[69]</sup> The foundation gave to health- and sports-related charities, conservative groups,<sup>[70]</sup> and charities that held events at Trump properties.<sup>[68]</sup> In 2016, *The Washington Post* reported that the charity had committed several potential legal and ethical violations, including self-dealing and [tax evasion](#).<sup>[71]</sup> Also in 2016, the New York attorney general stated the foundation had violated state law by soliciting donations without submitting to required annual external audits and ordered it to cease its fundraising activities in New York immediately.<sup>[72]</sup> Trump's team announced in December 2016 that the foundation would be dissolved.<sup>[73]</sup> In June 2018, the New York attorney general's office filed a civil suit against the foundation, Trump, and his adult children, seeking \$2.8 million in restitution and additional penalties.<sup>[74]</sup> In December 2018, the foundation ceased operation and disbursed its assets to other charities.<sup>[75]</sup> In November 2019, a New York state judge ordered Trump to pay \$2 million to a group of charities for misusing the foundation's funds, in part to finance his presidential campaign.<sup>[76]</sup>

## Legal affairs and bankruptcies

*Main article: [Personal and business legal affairs of Donald Trump](#)*

According to a review of state and federal court files conducted by *USA Today* in 2018, Trump and his businesses had been involved in more than 4,000 state and federal legal actions.<sup>[77]</sup> While he has not filed for [personal bankruptcy](#), his over-leveraged hotel and casino businesses in Atlantic City and New York filed for [Chapter 11 bankruptcy](#) protection six times between 1991 and 2009.<sup>[22]</sup> They continued to operate while the banks restructured debt and reduced his shares in the properties.<sup>[22]</sup> During the 1980s, more than 70 banks had lent Trump \$4 billion.<sup>[78]</sup> After his corporate bankruptcies of the early 1990s, most major banks, with the exception of [Deutsche Bank](#), declined to lend to him.<sup>[79]</sup> After the [January 6 Capitol attack](#), the bank decided not to do business with him or his affiliated company in the future.<sup>[80]</sup>

## Wealth

*Main article: [Wealth of Donald Trump](#)*



Trump (rightmost) and wife Ivana at a 1985 state dinner for King [Fahd of Saudi Arabia](#) with President [Ronald Reagan](#) and First Lady [Nancy Reagan](#)

Trump has said he began his career with "a small loan of a million dollars" from his father and that he had to pay it back with interest.<sup>[81]</sup> He borrowed at least \$60 million from his father, largely did not repay the loans, and received another \$413 million (2018 equivalent, adjusted for inflation) from his father's company.<sup>[82][23]</sup> Posing as a Trump Organization official named "[John Barron](#)", Trump called journalist Jonathan Greenberg in 1984, trying to get a higher ranking on the [Forbes 400](#) list of wealthy Americans.<sup>[83]</sup> Trump self-reported his net worth over a wide range: from minus \$900 million in 1990,<sup>[6]</sup> to \$10 billion in 2015.<sup>[86]</sup> In 2015, [Forbes](#) estimated his net worth at \$4.5 billion, based on interviews with more than 80 sources.<sup>[87]</sup> In 2025, the magazine estimated his net worth at \$5.1 billion and ranked him the 700th wealthiest person in the world.<sup>[88]</sup>

## Media career

Main article: [Media career of Donald Trump](#)

See also: [Bibliography of Donald Trump](#)

Trump has published 19 books under his name, most written or cowritten by [ghostwriters](#).<sup>[89]</sup> His first book, *The Art of the Deal* (1987), was a [New York Times Best Seller](#), and was credited by *The New Yorker* with making Trump famous as an "emblem of the successful tycoon".<sup>[90]</sup> The book was ghostwritten by [Tony Schwartz](#), who is credited as a coauthor. Trump had cameos in many films and television shows from 1985 to 2001.<sup>[91]</sup> Trump acquired his style of politics from [professional wrestling](#)—with its [staged fights](#) and [name-calling](#).<sup>[92]</sup> He sporadically appeared for the professional wrestling company [WWE](#) from the late 1980s including [Wrestlemania 23](#) in 2007.<sup>[93][94]</sup> Starting in the 1990s, Trump appeared 24 times as a guest on the nationally syndicated [Howard Stern Show](#).<sup>[95]</sup> He had his own short-form talk radio program, *Trumped!*, from 2004 to 2008.<sup>[96]</sup> From 2011 until 2015, he was a guest commentator on [Fox & Friends](#).<sup>[97]</sup> In 2021, Trump, who had been a member since 1989, resigned from [SAG-AFTRA](#) to avoid a disciplinary hearing regarding the January 6 attack.<sup>[98]</sup> Two days later, the union permanently barred him.<sup>[99]</sup>

## *The Apprentice* and *The Celebrity Apprentice*

Main articles: [The Apprentice \(American TV series\)](#) and [The Celebrity Apprentice](#)

Producer [Mark Burnett](#) made Trump a television star<sup>[100]</sup> when he created *The Apprentice*, which Trump hosted from 2004 to 2015 (including variant *The Celebrity Apprentice*). On the shows, he was a superrich chief executive who eliminated contestants with the [catchphrase](#) "you're fired". *The New York Times* called his portrayal "a highly flattering, highly fictionalized version" of himself.<sup>[101]</sup> The shows remade Trump's image for millions of viewers nationwide.<sup>[101][102]</sup> With the related licensing agreements, they earned him more than \$400 million.<sup>[103]</sup>

