

# Polling Analyst Workflow Documentation

**Date:** February 9, 2026

**Status:** Operational

**Next Briefing:** Daily at 8:00 AM EST

## Overview

An autonomous polling analysis system that tracks US political polling, MAGA movement momentum, and 2026 midterm trends. Delivers daily briefings with trend analysis and signal detection.

## What Was Built Today

### 1. Agent Skill: `polling-analyst`

**Location:** /home/wayne/.openclaw/workspace/skills/polling-analyst.skill

**Components:**

- SKILL.md — Core workflow, signal detection heuristics, browsing discipline
- references/pollster-ratings.md — Tiered pollster reliability guide
- references/2026-races.md — Senate/House/Governor race trackers
- references/historical-trends.md — Baselines and patterns
- scripts/polling-fetch.py — Data fetch helper

**Triggers:**

- "poll", "polling", "election", "midterm", "MAGA"
- "Trump approval", "generic ballot", "voter sentiment"
- Daily cron execution

### 2. Automated Cron Job

**Schedule:** Daily at 8:00 AM EST (America/New\_York)

**Job ID:** aaf1bbce-1d6e-41f3-bcb3-65d0267a59c6

**Workflow:**

1. Read yesterday's memory file (memory/YYYY-MM-DD.md)
2. Browse RCP for Trump approval/favorability, generic ballot
3. Check Truth Social for MAGA sentiment (#MAGA activity, Trump engagement)
4. Compare to yesterday's baseline
5. Write findings to memory/TODAY.md
6. Deliver briefing via Telegram

### 3. Memory Persistence System

**Daily Files:** memory/YYYY-MM-DD.md

- Key metrics with day-over-day comparisons
- Truth Social vibe observations
- Notable shifts and signals
- Bottom line synthesis

**Long-term:** MEMORY.md (for main sessions only)

- Curated significant trends
- Lessons learned
- User preferences

## Current Workflow

### Data Sources

Source   Data   Method
----- ----- -----
RealClearPolitics   Trump approval, favorability, generic ballot   Browser + web_fetch fallback
Truth Social   MAGA sentiment, engagement rates   Browser (requires login)
538/Cook/Sabato   Secondary validation   As needed

### Daily Briefing Format

```
■ POLLING BRIEF – [DATE]
THE HEADLINE
One sentence on the biggest shift (or "steady as she goes")
KEY NUMBERS
```

- Trump fav/unfav: X% (spread  $\pm X$ ) – trend:  $\uparrow \downarrow \rightarrow$
- Generic ballot: D+X – trend:  $\uparrow \downarrow \rightarrow$

MAGA TEMPERATURE

- [Hot/Warm/Cold/Fragmented]: Why

WORTH WATCHING

0-2 things that caught your eye

BOTTOM LINE

One sentence synthesis

## Browsing Discipline

**Time budget:** 5-10 minutes per briefing

- RCP: 2 minutes (headline numbers only)
- Truth Social: 3 minutes (scroll feed, check #MAGA, gauge engagement)
- Synthesis: 2-3 minutes

**Signal detection:**

- **Signal:** 2+ point shift confirmed across multiple pollsters
- **Noise:** Single outlier, partisan poll, no corroboration
- **Ignore:** Crosstabs (unless topline shocking), Twitter/X, state polls this far out

## Technical Setup

### Browser Configuration

**Chrome Extension:** OpenClaw Browser Relay

- Installed from: `~/.npm-global/lib/node_modules/openclaw/assets/chrome-extension/`
- Must be clicked ON for each tab to control
- Connection times out after 20-30 seconds of inactivity

**Truth Social Access:**

- Account: curiositybits
- Logged in and authenticated
- Following: @realDonaldTrump, @breitbartnews, @DonaldJTrumpJr, @TPUSA, etc.

### Gateway Commands

```
# Check status  
openclaw gateway status
```

```
# Restart if flaky
openclaw gateway restart

# List cron jobs
cron action=list

# Trigger job manually
cron action=run jobId=aaf1bbce-1d6e-41f3-bcb3-65d0267a59c6
```

## Current Baseline (Feb 9, 2026)

### National Metrics (RCP Averages)

- **Trump approval:** 42.3% (disapprove +12.6)
- **Trump favorability:** Unfavorable +11.2
- **Generic ballot:** Democrats +5.2
- **Right direction:** 37.7%

### MAGA Temperature: HOT

- **#MAGA hashtag:** 11.3k recent truths
- **Trump's last post:** 16.1k likes, 3.89k retruths, 2.08k replies
- **Base sentiment:** Engaged, positive, core ecosystem intact

### Key Races to Watch

1. **Ohio Senate Special** — Husted +1.0 (toss-up in Trump state)
2. **Texas GOP Primary** — Paxton 38%, Cornyn 31%, Hunt 17% (anti-establishment energy)

## Remaining Issues & Challenges

### 1. Browser Flakiness

**Problem:** Chrome extension times out after 20-30 seconds of inactivity.

**Impact:** Cannot leave tabs idle; connection drops during research.

**Workarounds:**

- Batch all browsing into 5-10 minute bursts
- Use web\_fetch for RCP static pages (more reliable)
- Reconnect and continue if timeout occurs
- Keep Chrome window visible (not minimized)

**Potential Solutions:**

- Switch to openclaw browser start (managed headless browser)
- Increase timeout thresholds in gateway config
- Run on more powerful hardware (less resource contention)

## 2. Truth Social Content Access

**Problem:** Truth Social is JavaScript-heavy; web\_fetch can't penetrate login wall.

**Impact:** Must use browser for all Truth Social monitoring.

**Workarounds:**

- Stay logged in on dedicated tab
- Use browser automation for scrolling/searching
- Capture engagement metrics via snapshot

**Potential Solutions:**

- API access (if Truth Social offers it)
- RSS feeds (if available)
- Third-party aggregation services

## 3. RCP Dynamic Content

**Problem:** RealClearPolling loads data dynamically; web\_fetch only gets partial HTML.

**Impact:** Cannot rely on web\_fetch alone; need browser for accurate numbers.

**Workarounds:**

- Browser-first approach for RCP
- Use web\_fetch only as fallback
- Read sidebar aggregates when available

**Potential Solutions:**

- Wait for page load completion in browser
- Use RCP API (if available)
- Cache successful browser snapshots

## 4. Data Volume vs. Judgment

**Problem:** Easy to collect too much data; hard to maintain "seasoned watcher" intuition.

**Impact:** Risk of becoming data collector rather than analyst.

**Mitigation:**

- Strict time budgets (5-10 min per briefing)
- Focus on trend direction, not precision
- Trust gut on signal vs. noise
- Write concise, not comprehensive

## 5. Memory Management

**Problem:** Must manually write to files; no automatic session persistence.

**Impact:** If I forget to write memory, tomorrow's comparison is flawed.

**Mitigation:**

- Built memory write into cron workflow
- Daily files in memory/ directory
- Weekly curation to MEMORY.md

## 6. Verification & Fact-Checking

**Problem:** Operating autonomously; no human review of daily briefings before sending.

**Risk:** Could misinterpret data or miss important context.

**Mitigation:**

- Clear signal detection heuristics
- Flag uncertain data with confidence levels
- User can override or correct via reply
- Store sources in memory files for audit

## Future Enhancements

### Short-term

- [ ] Stabilize browser connection (try headless mode)
- [ ] Add 538 model tracking
- [ ] Track specific House districts (Cook Political ratings)

## Medium-term

- [ ] Special election alerts (unscheduled races)
- [ ] Fundraising data integration (FEC filings)
- [ ] Social media sentiment analysis (beyond Truth Social)

## Long-term

- [ ] Predictive modeling (midterm wave indicators)
- [ ] Comparative international polling
- [ ] Automated chart generation

# Commands Reference

## Manual Briefing Trigger

```
cron action=run jobId=aaf1bbce-1d6e-41f3-bcb3-65d0267a59c6
```

## Check Job Status

```
cron action=list
cron action=runs jobId=aaf1bbce-1d6e-41f3-bcb3-65d0267a59c6
```

## Read Today's Memory

```
cat ~/.openclaw/workspace/memory/2026-02-09.md
```

## Update Skill

```
# Edit skill files, then:
python3 ~/.npm-global/lib/node_modules/openclaw/skills/skill-creator/scripts/package_skill.py \
~/openclaw/workspace/skills/polling-analyst ~/.openclaw/workspace/skills
```

# Contact & Feedback

**System:** OpenClaw Agent

**Channel:** Telegram (@opensoulweb)

**Session:** Main (direct user communication)

For corrections, adjustments to briefing format, or additional data sources, reply to any briefing message.

\*Document generated: February 9, 2026\*

\*System status: Operational\*

\*Next briefing: Tomorrow 8:00 AM EST\*