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One Hundred Days of Ethics Erasure

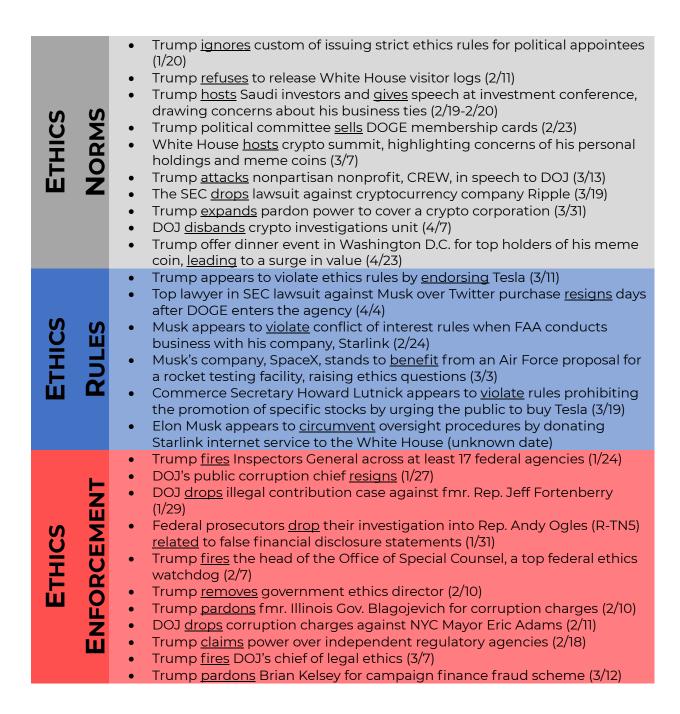
In just the first one hundred days of his second term in the White House, President Trump has already eroded public trust by flouting ethics norms, rules, and enforcement. The Administration prompted alarms before even taking office by <u>missing</u> the pre-Election Day deadline to submit an ethics code, and eventually presenting an inadequate plan that excluded language explaining how it would apply to the President himself. This lukewarm gesture set the stage for an administration uncommitted to ethical government.

President Trump has disregarded **ethics norms** with actions that draw concerns about transparency as well as his personal conflicts of interest. He began the day of his second inauguration, when he <u>failed</u> to release ethics rules for political appointees in his administration, <u>allowing</u> for a revolving door of lobbyists in government. The President has also used his office to advance his own personal financial interests, particularly with respect to the cryptocurrency industry. In the days before taking office, President Trump <u>launched</u> a meme coin, which <u>surged</u> in value after holders were promised a chance at dinner with the President in Washington.

The Trump Administration has also appeared to break **ethics rules** that prohibit conflicts of interest by promoting the companies of close allies and advisors, most notably Elon Musk. After joining the federal government as the head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), President Trump gave Musk decision-making power over agencies that clearly <u>overlap</u> with his business interests. Further, President Trump endorsed Tesla, and his Commerce Secretary urged the public to buy stock in the company (violating federal ethics laws).

Finally, President Trump has hindered **ethics enforcement** by removing key government officials. He ended his first week in office by <u>firing</u> inspectors general across at least 17 federal agencies, and went on to oust numerous watchdog officers at the Department of Justice and multiple independent agencies. These officials, responsible for investigating violations and enforcing ethics laws, are an essential guardrail against corruption. The Trump Administration has further rolled back enforcement by issuing questionable pardons to supporters indicted on or convicted of corruption-related charges.

The table below identifies 27 times that the Trump Administration violated ethics norms and rules and impaired enforcement during just the first 100 days in office.



Voters have a right to know that their elected officials are acting in the public interest and not prioritizing their own wealth or the wants of special interests. CLC will continue to monitor ethics under President Trump and hold the Administration accountable.