EXECUTIVE ORDER

The People's Guide to Presidential Power, 2025–2026

VIRGINIA DEWARD

Free sample

This is a free sample of *Executive Order*. It has two pieces of the book, exactly as they appear in the paperback: "By the Numbers," from the front matter, and Chapter 12, the book's strangest chapter.

The full book covers all 285 executive orders signed from January 20, 2025, through September 18, 2026, in 12 chapters, with How Executive Orders Work, a chronological list of every order with its Federal Register citation, and a glossary.

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By the Numbers

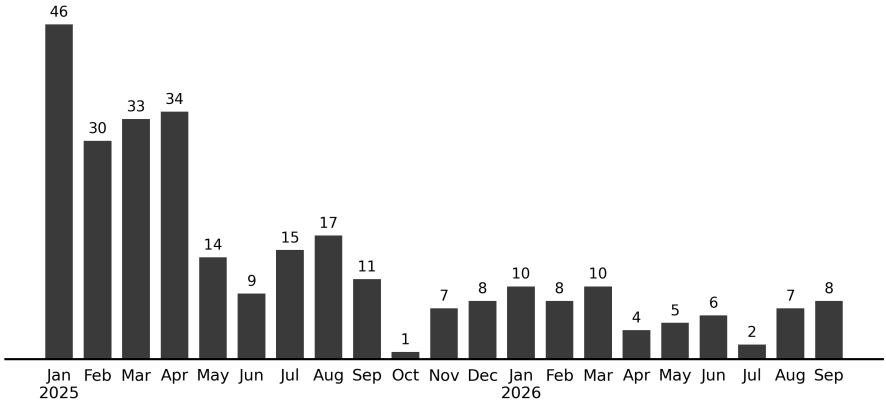
285	225	26	128
executive orders signed, Jan. 20, 2025, to September 18, 2026	signed in 2025	signed on Inauguration Day	full entries in this book

President Trump signed 285 executive orders between January 20, 2025, and September 18, 2026. That is more than in his entire first term (220 orders over four years), President Biden's full term (162), or President Obama's two terms (277), according to Federal Register counts. The 225 orders he signed in 2025 are nearly three times the 77 President Biden signed in 2021, the highest first-year total of the five previous presidential terms.

PRESIDENT	YEARS	FIRST-YEAR ORDERS	TOTAL ORDERS
Donald J. Trump (second term)	2025–	225	285 (to Sept. 2026)
Joseph R. Biden Jr.	2021–2025	77	162
Donald J. Trump (first term)	2017–2021	55	220
Barack Obama	2009–2017	40	277
George W. Bush	2001–2009	54	291
Bill Clinton	1993–2001	57	364

Source: Federal Register counts of executive orders by president and year. First-year orders are those signed in the calendar year of the inauguration.

EXECUTIVE ORDERS SIGNED PER MONTH



Orders by signing date, January 2025 through September 18, 2026 (EO 14147–EO 14431). Source: Federal Register. Data as of September 24, 2026.

The pace was fastest at the start: 26 orders on Inauguration Day and 46 in January 2025. A second wave came in spring 2025, when orders were often signed in batches, including eight on April 9, 2025, on subjects ranging from a 90-day pause of the higher "reciprocal" tariff rates to shipbuilding and showerheads. From mid-2025 the pace slowed to fewer than 20 a month, and no month in 2026 has had more than 10.

Where the orders are covered

CHAPTER	FULL ENTRIES	FOLDED	QUICK TAKES	MINOR	TOTAL
Chapter 1: Government Operations & the Federal Workforce	20	3	7	6	36
Chapter 2: Immigration & Border Policy	11	2	1	0	14
Chapter 3: Trade & Tariffs	11	22	8	0	41
Chapter 4: The Economy, Finance & Housing	11	2	9	1	23
Chapter 5: Energy & Environment	18	4	9	0	31
Chapter 6: Foreign Policy & National Security	13	0	16	4	33
Chapter 7: Health & Education	12	3	16	0	31

CHAPTER	FULL ENTRIES	FOLDED	QUICK TAKES	MINOR	TOTAL
Chapter 8: Law Enforcement, Policing & Guns	10	6	5	0	21
Chapter 9: Technology, AI & Free Speech	8	3	10	1	22
Chapter 10: Culture, History & Symbolic Orders	9	2	8	1	20
Chapter 11: Elections & Voting	2	0	1	0	3
Chapter 12: Miscellaneous & Notable Orders	3	0	2	2	7
All chapters	**128**	**47**	**92**	**15**	**282**

"Folded" orders are follow-up orders covered inside another order's full entry. "Minor" orders are listed at the end of their chapter. The rescission orders explained in the next section are not counted here.

Where the orders stand

Of the 220 orders with full entries or Quick Takes in Chapters 1–12, the status labels used in this book break down as follows. 43 of them also face active lawsuits.

STATUS	ORDERS
In effect	192
Partly blocked	12
Blocked	3
Ended	12
Revoked	1
Also labeled "In court"	43

Counts use each order's main status label as of September 2026. "In effect" includes orders that have been fully carried out.

CHAPTER 12

Miscellaneous & Notable Orders

Some of President Trump's orders do not fit a larger policy area. This chapter covers the release of long-withheld files on the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King Jr., along with orders on showerheads, paper straws, a car race in Washington, D.C., and the Army-Navy football game.

Several of these orders drew wide attention despite their narrow scope. Orders that only set up White House task forces for major sporting events are listed at the end.

Status information is current as of September 2026.

KEY TERMS

National Archives — The federal agency that preserves government records and makes them available to the public.

JFK Records Act — A 1992 law requiring the release of all federal records on President Kennedy's assassination, while letting the President delay the release of some records.

Declassification — Removing a security classification from a government record so that it can be made public.

Energy efficiency standard — A federal limit on how much energy or water an appliance or fixture, such as a showerhead, may use.

Public-interest obligation — The requirement that broadcasters licensed by the Federal Communications Commission serve the public interest.

Chapter at a Glance

ORDER	EO	SIGNED	STATUS
PART 1: HISTORICAL RECORDS			
Releasing the JFK, RFK, and Martin Luther King Jr. Assassination Files	14176	January 23, 2025	In effect
PART 2: EVERYDAY LIFE, SPORTS, AND EVENTS			
Repealing the Showerhead Rule	14264	April 9, 2025	In effect
Ending Federal Purchases of Paper Straws	14208	February 10, 2025	In effect
An IndyCar Race in Washington, D.C. (quick take)	14381	January 30, 2026	In effect
Protecting the Army-Navy Game's TV Slot (quick take)	14396	March 20, 2026	In effect

Part 1: Historical Records

This order directed the release of the remaining federal records on three assassinations of the 1960s.

Releasing the JFK, RFK, and Martin Luther King Jr. Assassination Files

EO 14176 · Declassification of Records Concerning the Assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

IN EFFECT Signed January 23, 2025

This order directed the release of the government's remaining records on the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A 1992 law required the release of all federal records on President Kennedy's assassination by 2017 but allowed the President to keep some withheld, and Presidents Trump, in his first term, and Biden both delayed the release of some records. No such law covered the killings of Robert Kennedy or Dr. King in 1968.

The order told the Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General to "present a plan" within 15 days "for the full and complete release of records relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy," and within 45 days for the records on Robert Kennedy and Dr. King.

The National Archives released about 94,600 pages of Kennedy records between March 2025 and January 2026, about 84,500 pages of Robert Kennedy records and audio files between April and June 2025, and about 243,500 pages of records on Dr. King in July 2025.

WHO IT AFFECTS

Historians and researchers, the families of the three men, and members of the public interested in the cases.

WHERE IT STANDS

Carried out through a series of releases in 2025 and January 2026.

Part 2: Everyday Life, Sports, and Events

These orders addressed showerheads, paper straws, a car race in the nation's capital, and the television schedule for the Army-Navy football game.

Repealing the Showerhead Rule

EO 14264 · Maintaining Acceptable Water Pressure in Showerheads

IN EFFECT Signed April 9, 2025

This order directed the Energy Department to repeal a 2021 rule defining "showerhead," a definition that controls how the federal water-flow limit applies to fixtures with several showerheads.

A 1992 federal law limits showerheads made since 1994 to 2.5 gallons of water per minute. In 2020, during the President's first term, the Energy Department redefined "showerhead" so that each showerhead on a fixture with several showerheads could use up to that amount; in 2021, under President Biden, the department reversed that change so that the limit applied to the fixture as a whole.

The order directed the Secretary of Energy to rescind the 2021 definition. The department did so in a rule published April 15, 2025, and effective May 15, 2025, which removed the regulatory definition so that "the statutory definition of showerhead" in federal law "will control."

WHO IT AFFECTS

Showerhead makers and buyers.

WHERE IT STANDS

In effect. The repeal took effect May 15, 2025.

Ending Federal Purchases of Paper Straws

EO 14208 · Ending Procurement and Forced Use of Paper Straws

IN EFFECT Signed February 10, 2025

This order made it federal policy "to end the use of paper straws," told agencies to stop buying them, and called for a national strategy against paper straws and against local bans on plastic ones.

The order says that "An irrational campaign against plastic straws has resulted in major cities, States, and businesses banning the use or automatic inclusion of plastic straws with beverages," and that paper straws are "nonfunctional," cost more, and "use chemicals that may carry risks to human health." It told agencies to stop buying paper straws and to "ensure that paper straws are no longer provided within agency buildings," and to drop policies against plastic straws adopted under a 2021 Biden sustainability order (EO 14057), which had been revoked on January 20, 2025.

The White House Domestic Policy Council's "National Strategy to End the Use of Paper Straws," released in March 2025, recommended changing federal contracting rules to require straws as durable as plastic ones and to have contractors certify that they do not use paper straws, asked the Food and Drug Administration to study chemicals known as PFAS in paper straws, and called on the Agriculture Department and the Environmental Protection Agency to drop paper straws from their eco-friendly product programs. It cited a study that detected PFAS in paper and other plant-based straws but not in plastic ones, and it criticized plastic-straw bans in California, New York, and other places.

Environmental groups criticized the order, citing plastic pollution, while plastics-industry groups welcomed it.

WHO IT AFFECTS

Federal agencies and the cafeterias and contractors that serve them, and straw makers.

WHERE IT STANDS

In effect. The General Services Administration issued a temporary exception to federal contracting rules (a "deviation") barring agency

purchases of paper straws. In July 2025 the federal contracting rules council proposed making the change permanent; no final rule had been published as of September 2026. The order's direct effect is limited to federal purchasing and buildings; it is a full entry because of the wide news coverage it received.

QUICK TAKES · PART 2

An IndyCar Race in Washington, D.C.

Celebrating American Greatness With American Motor Racing

EO 14381 · January 30, 2026 · **In effect**

Directs federal support for an IndyCar race in Washington, D.C., the Freedom 250 Grand Prix, telling the Interior and Transportation departments to set a route near the National Mall within 14 days and to speed up permits. The race was held on August 23, 2026.

Protecting the Army-Navy Game's TV Slot

Preserving America's Game

EO 14396 · March 20, 2026 · **In effect**

Sets a policy that "no college football game, specifically college football's CFP or other postseason games, be broadcast in a manner that directly conflicts with the Army-Navy Game," and directs the Commerce Secretary and the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to seek "an exclusive window" for the game. It also asks the FCC chairman to consider reviewing broadcasters' public-interest obligations to see whether they would require the game to remain "a national service event."

Also Signed: Minor Orders

These orders appear in the chronological appendix but did not meet the tests for a full or quick-take entry.

- **EO 14234** · March 7, 2025 · *Establishing the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026* — Creates a White House task force, chaired by the President, to coordinate federal support for the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup and the 2026 World Cup, hosted by the United States, Canada, and Mexico. It ends December 31, 2026, unless extended.
- **EO 14328** · August 5, 2025 · *Establishing the White House Task Force on the 2028 Summer Olympics* — Creates a White House task force, chaired by the

President, to coordinate federal support for the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles. It ends December 31, 2028, unless extended.

Related orders covered in other chapters: EO 14189 (America's 250th birthday), EO 14172 (Gulf of America and Mount McKinley), and EO 14422 (Lake America), Chapter 10. The omnibus rescission orders (EO 14148 and EO 14236) are covered in the front matter.

Keep Reading

This sample is one chapter of twelve. The full book covers every order, sorted by topic:

- Government Operations & the Federal Workforce
- Immigration & Border Policy
- Trade & Tariffs
- The Economy, Finance & Housing
- Energy & Environment
- Foreign Policy & National Security
- Health & Education
- Law Enforcement, Policing & Guns
- Technology, AI & Free Speech
- Culture, History & Symbolic Orders
- Elections & Voting
- Miscellaneous & Notable Orders

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