



**THE WHITE HOUSE TRANSITION PROJECT**  
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Kinder Institute on  
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*Smoothing the Peaceful Transfer of Democratic Power*

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White House Analytics Program

**REPORT 46**

**PRESIDENTS RONALD REAGAN —**  
**DONALD TRUMP II**  
**EXCHANGES WITH REPORTERS IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS\***

Martha Joynt Kumar, *Director, White House Transition Project*





# PRESIDENTS RONALD REAGAN — DONALD TRUMP II

## EXCHANGES WITH REPORTERS IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS\*

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**Table 1. Interchanges with Reporters**

President	Short Question & Answer		Press Conferences		Interviews	Total Interchanges (Avg per Workday)
	Totals		Totals			
	in the Oval Office	on Air Force 1	Solo	Joint		
	%	%				
Donald Trump II	98		5		26	129
	40	16	0	5		(1.9)
	41%	16%				
Joseph R. Biden	75		2		10	87
	19	6	1	1		(1.3)
	25%	8%				
Donald Trump I	29		9		51	89
	7	7	1	8		(1.3)
	24%	24%				
Barack Obama	10		12		46	76
	10	0	6	6		(1.1)
	56%	0%				
George W. Bush	54		5		19	78
	16	2	2	3		(1.1)
	30%	4%				
William Clinton	85		13		9	107
	31	0	4	9		(1.6)
	36%	0%				
George HW Bush	11		11		12	34
	3	0	9	2		(0.5)
	27%	0%				
Ronald Reagan	5		2		16	23
	1	1	2	0		(0.3)
	20%	20%				

## THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF THE DONALD TRUMP II PRESIDENCY

**With an Average of 1.9 Press Sessions a Day, President Trump in 2025 Leads the Recent Presidential Pack Answering Reporters' Queries.** Not only did President Trump have more press interchanges than his predecessors during his first hundred days, but his regularly televised question-and-answer sessions with reporters caught the public's attention. People watched and listened while he spoke and then took reporters' questions for an average of 22 minutes. Forty-one percent of his question-and-answer sessions were held in the Oval Office, his favored location where he met with leaders and interacted with the press. The office became the public hub activity for President Trump. His guests included foreign leaders, Cabinet members, sometimes their family members, White House staff, a bank of reporters, influencers, television crews. All gathered in an 816 square foot office with the storied Resolute desk, a couple of couches, and a room adorned with multiple vermeil objects, a Gulf of America map, more than a dozen presidential portraits, and a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

Deducting weekends and federal holidays from the 100 days running through April 29th, there were 69 workdays. With all of his interchanges with reporters in various locations, Trump had an average of 1.9 sessions a day in 69 workdays. He was well ahead of his six predecessors. President Clinton was the closest in numbers with 1.6, Trump I and Biden were tied at 1.3. President George W. Bush and Barack Obama had slightly fewer, both with 1.1. Presidents Reagan (0.3) and George H.W. Bush (0.5) had substantially fewer press interchanges than their successors. In Reagan's case, for a significant portion of that time, he was hospitalized and then recuperating from a gunshot wound suffered in a March 1981 assassination attempt.

## BACKGROUND: PATTERNS OF RECENT PRESIDENTIAL INTERCHANGES WITH REPORTERS.

One hundred days into the Trump presidency we can see old patterns repeat themselves and new ones form.

***All Presidents Answer Reporters Queries.*** First and foremost, all presidents meet with reporters to answer their questions. As much as they may dislike doing so, presidents make themselves available to reporters. The public expects to hear from them and speaking with reporters is a quick and easy way of doing so. On an average day when the President is in town, there are more than a hundred reporters, photographers, and their crews ready to hear from the President and broadcast live from the White House.

***Presidential Personal Preferences Among Forums.*** A second pattern is presidents choose from among three forums with a mix most comfortable for themselves. There are three basic options presidents and their staffs have for their meetings with reporters. The first option is a formal news conference, either a joint one with a visiting foreign leader or a domestic official as well as solo sessions where the President appears alone. A news conference is the time-tested forum observed by all presidents holding office beginning in 1913. Joint sessions as a routine forum began under President George H. W. Bush with all of his successors regularly using the forum to appear with visiting dignitaries. A second option presidents have is to organize interviews with journalists with an eye to furthering their policy, personal, and electoral goals. Their staffs can arrange the interviews with journalists whom they feel comfortable and under arrangements where the President can focus the conversation on subjects of his choosing. A third forum option – short question-and-answer sessions - has recently proved to be the most popular, particularly since the onset of the televised presidency and the presence at the White House of cable networks. These sessions are regularly held either as lone events, such as before the

President leaves the White House by helicopter on the South Lawn, on Air Force One, or at the top or the bottom of a meeting in the Oval Office, Cabinet or Roosevelt rooms. Depending on their goals and personal preferences, recent presidents have balanced their use of these three forums in different ways.

***Media Environment.*** A third factor in the shape of presidential interchanges with reporters is the media environment. In Reagan's time most people read print publications – national and local newspapers as well as magazines – as their major news source. While Reagan was a master-of-television, he did more print interviews than television ones. He reserved television for his prime time East Room news conferences carried live by all three networks for the half or full hour session. With the national and local attention he received for his news conferences, he did not need to regularly do short exchanges with reporters. In the following years, television networks thrived and developed their own cable operations. Beginning with President Clinton's time in office, television expanded from network news to three cable operations with space at the White House. With the new developments, presidents and their staffs adjusted their news strategies towards more public facing forums, particularly to increase the use of short question-and-answer sessions. At the same time, newspapers suffered financial stress, especially local print. By President Obama's years in office, digital media captured the public's attention as a major news source. President Trump expanded the use of new digital tools, particularly Twitter. He successfully used the online site as a means for setting the narrative of the day. Currently his press shop has added "influencers" to the media mix. The proliferation of information sources has broadened the ways contemporary presidents communicate with the public and the amount of time they spend on their communications.

**Recent Presidents Favored Short Question-and-Answer Sessions with Reporters with Interviews Second.** While news conferences may be the coin of the realm for reporters because of the opportunity for many to query and then follow up on their questions, presidents no longer favor the solo forum they almost exclusively used to meet reporters from 1913 - 1989. Of the three forums discussed above, presidents have minimized their number of news conferences, especially solo sessions, and focused on short question-and-answer sessions as well as interviews. If there are visiting foreign leaders, however, presidents often hold joint news conference sessions where, following leader statements, the questions are limited to two or three reporters for the U.S. and a similar number for the foreign press side.

Both interviews and Q&A sessions are easy to set up, limit how long they go, and most often don't require a great deal of preparation. For example, short exchanges with reporters generally take place as part of a scheduled event, such as greeting a foreign leader in the Oval Office at the beginning of a bilateral meeting or as he leaves by helicopter on the White House South Lawn. A President's communications team can set up both the question-and-answer sessions and interviews at convenient points when he wants to respond or get on top of an unfolding event. Since the Clinton years with fiber optic cables available in many White House and West Wing locations, a President can go live on television within minutes at a location of his choosing. The one hour solo news conferences of the Reagan years are rare today though Biden and Trump, in his first term, each had one.

Two Early Trump Communications Choices: 1/ Hold Q&A Sessions in the Oval Office; Interviews Come Second; 2/ Establish Rules Governing Engagement with the Press. In his first 100 days in office in 2025, President Trump established the Oval Office as his preferred location to give the public a sense of what he was doing on their behalf. Fifty-nine percent of the 1,522 minutes Trump spent responding to reporters' questions in his 40 short question-and-answer sessions were ones held in the Oval Office. Particularly in recent weeks, President Trump added Air Force One gaggles [16 total] as his second favorite location for meeting with a small press pool.

***1. Short Question-and-Answer Sessions in the Oval Office.*** President Trump and his team fashioned a communications strategy to match his policy, political and personal goals. They focused on explaining Trump's policies and used a central White House location to do so. The Oval Office is the place the public associates with presidential decision-making. With regular coverage by cable networks, particularly Fox

News and C-SPAN, Trump used the setting to show what decisions he was making and explained the reason he took action. The question-and-answer portion of these not-so-short sessions with reporters lasted an average of 23 minutes. Time enough for Trump to explain the points he wanted to get across and then answer reporters' questions.

With reporters present, Will Sharf, Trump's staff secretary, read aloud the executive orders carrying out his domestic, foreign policy, economic, and social policies. With these readings, the public knew what actions he was taking and then in the following question-and-answer session with reporters, Trump elaborated on how his actions related to specific problems. In his interview with Laura Ingraham, she said to him "...your staff secretary reads out the executive orders to you when you are signing it? Trump responded to her: "I only do that for the media, for the fake news." Hearing what the orders involve, those listening have a picture of what he is doing and why.<sup>1</sup>

While President Trump used the Oval Office during his first 100 days in 2017, he did so sparingly. He had 7 of his 29 exchanges with reporters in the Oval Office in the 100 days in 2017 as opposed to 40 of 98 in his second term. This year, on some days he held multiple sessions. January 24<sup>th</sup>, for example, Trump held six sessions with reporters and on February 11<sup>th</sup> he had five.

Instead of focusing on short question-and-answer sessions, in 2017 Trump used interviews as a main communications setting. In his first term 100 days, President Trump had twice as many interviews – 51 to 26 - as he did in the same time period in his second. In his 100 days in 2025, interviews became a complement to the policies and initiatives Trump promoted in his Oval Office sessions. While he had interviews with some mainstream networks and print publications, at least 16 of his 26 interviews were with interviewers from Fox divisions, conservative media, or "influencers." These interviews were important as a way of letting Trump's constituents know what he was doing and seeking their support. Below is a list of the interviews Trump conducted in his first hundred days of 2025.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rollcall.com/factbase/trump/transcript/donald-trump-interview-laura-ingraham-fox-news-oval-office-tour-march-18-2025/>

<sup>2</sup> 18 TELEVISION

11 Fox Television

11 are with Fox [Fox News 7/ 2 Sean Hannity, 1 Bret Baer, 1 Brian Kilmeade, 1 Sheryl Attkisson, 2 Laura Ingraham one interview with a separate Oval Office tour]

1 Fox Business - Maria Bartiromo; 2 Fox Sports – Jamie Little; Clay Travis - a Fox-affiliated podcast on Outkick; 1 Fox Latino – Rachel Campos-Duffy

2 Conservative TV

Blaze TV – Glenn Beck

Newsmax – Greg Kelly

3 Network TV

2 NBC - 1 Garrett Haake, very short interchange; 1 Kristen Welker (phone)

1 ABC - Terry Moran

2 Off the Record

Bill Maher dinner

Television anchors luncheon prior to the State of the Union message

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#### **RADIO**

1 Conservative Radio

Mark Levin

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#### **PRINT**

5 Print

New York Post – Miranda Devine

Spectator – Ben Domenech

Time – Eric Cortellessa and Sam Jacobs

2 Atlantic – Jeffrey Goldberg with Ashley Parker, Michael Shearer; Parker & Shearer

**2. Establishing Rules of Press Engagement: Selecting Attendees for Press Sessions.** When President Trump held Oval Office sessions, he did so under rules established by his incoming communications team. While the rules changes may seem inconsequential, the administration's revisions represented significant alterations in the relationship with news organizations. The communications team has taken control of decisions relating to which news organizations are included in the daily press pool that represents members of the whole of the White House press corps. Traditionally the board members of the White House Correspondents Association make decisions on the composition of the pools with the Associated Press, Reuters, and Bloomberg wire services included in all pools. Now President Trump and his communications team are calling many of the shots. February 11<sup>th</sup> White House staff banned Associated Press from inclusion in pools because of the organization's reference to the southern coastal gulf by its traditional name, the Gulf of Mexico, rather than his renaming of the waters as the Gulf of America. AP's reporters were not allowed in news conferences as well as being excluded from press pools. Additionally, in late April the communications staff further altered the pool rotation with Reuters and Bloomberg categorized as no longer a daily pool presence as wire services have been for over a hundred years.

At the same time that the wires lost their regular access, White House communications and press staff expanded the number of organizations with regular White House press access. Additionally, they included a seat in Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt's briefing sessions designated for a rotating "new media" organization. Many of these organizations were conservative ones well known to the staff from the first administration and from Trump's campaigns. In addition to posing the initial question in the press secretary's briefing, the reporter was included in the press pool going into the Oval Office and could pose questions to the President. Other reporters were allowed as the press staff deemed appropriate. Young "influencers" with substantial followings who supported the President received special attention through their inclusion in pools and special briefings. While restrained from their normal pool position, the wire services, along with major newspapers, magazines, and television networks continued to break news and provided basic information on the administration's actions and policies.

**What Difference Did Focused Communications Make for President Trump? Intense Public Attention.** President Trump's communications strategy in his first hundred days created among the public an interest in and awareness of what he was doing. The public knew what he was thinking and doing. He had a large audience following his actions that included ardent supporters and those interested in how his actions would potentially impact them. In an end of March poll, the Pew Research Center found that 7 in 10 Americans were "very closely or fairly closely following news about the actions and initiatives of the Trump administration." That represents an increase from Biden's early days in 2021 when 66% said they were very or fairly closely paying attention to the new administration. There was a partisan divide in 2021, the Pew study found with Republicans and Republican-leaning independents not as likely as Democrats "to say they were following the Biden administration's actions very or fairly closely (60% of Republicans vs. 75% of Democrats)." In 2025, however, "74% of Republicans and 71% of Democrats say they are following the Trump administration's actions at least fairly closely."<sup>3</sup>

While President Trump captured public attention, opinion polls reflected a partisan division on his leadership and policies. At the 100 day mark, there were sharp differences on public judgements of how Trump was doing his job. A late April ABC News – Ipsos poll found:

More than 9 in 10 Democrats disapprove of the way Trump is doing his job while more than 8 in 10 Republicans approve.... independents, a group Trump narrowly lost in November, break heavily to the negative, with 33 percent

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## INFLUENCERS

2 Influencers - a meeting with a group of influencers; Vince Coglianese – podcast/radio

<sup>3</sup><https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2025/03/31/most-americans-say-they-are-tuned-in-to-news-about-the-trump-administration/>

approving and 58 percent disapproving. Among independents who lean Republican, Trump's approval has dropped from 76 percent to 63 percent since February."<sup>4</sup>

A Fox News poll conducted in late April found overall Trump received a 44% job approval and 55% disapproval.<sup>5</sup>

Public attention did not automatically translate into support for Trump's policy initiatives. His border security policy won public approval in the Fox survey [55%/40%] but the remaining eight policies surveyed – immigration, deportations, guns, foreign policy, the economy, taxes, tariffs, inflation – had more people disapproving than supporting them. Public opinion surveys of Trump's tariff proposals found a skeptical public. Seventy percent of the respondents in a Gallup survey were concerned the tariffs would cost the U.S. more money than they would bring in both in the short term (70%) and the long (62%).<sup>6</sup> Concerns found in the survey came in part from economists' criticisms as well as the S&P falling 7.8% during the 100 days. The drop was the most significant one during the first 100 days of a presidential term since Gerald Ford assumed the presidency in 1974.<sup>7</sup> Bringing in Elon Musk to downsize federal government offices and staff did not prove as popular a move as many people initially thought it would be. In an Associated Press and University of Chicago poll at the 100 day mark, 65% of those polled thought Musk had too much influence in the restructuring role Trump gave him.<sup>8</sup> As complaints about Musk's role piled up, he became less of a Washington presence for the last month of the 100 days.

What President Trump's more aggressive approach to using the Oval Office and other presidential locations bought for him was a public that knew his story through coverage on cable networks, sometimes for the entirety of his events and appearances. They saw President Trump at work. Television coverage of his events introduced viewers and readers to members of his administration as well as his appearances often included statements by his Cabinet secretaries, some White House staff members as well as visiting foreign leaders. As he signed executive orders related to his policy and administrative actions, he answered reporters' questions and discussed what they involved and why he issued them. These sessions allowed Trump to speak directly to the attentive public and, through clips in later broadcasts on news shows at the national and local levels, see highlights during early and late news programs. But at a hundred days, while attentive and aware of what the President was promoting, the public was wary of what President Trump's policies would bring for them and their families.

In reality, what presidents have are political and policy problems, not communications problems. The expectations of what presidential communications can deliver are much greater than what they can really do. Yet there is still much an effective communications operation can do for a president.<sup>9</sup>

There are limits to what a communications operation can buy a President. What President Trump's more aggressive approach to using the Oval Office and other presidential locations bought for him was a public that knew his story through coverage on cable networks, sometimes for the entirety of his events and appearances. They saw President Trump at work. Television coverage of his events introduced viewers and readers to members of his administration as well as his appearances often included statements by his Cabinet secretaries, some White House staff members as well as visiting foreign leaders. As he signed executive orders related to his policy and administrative actions, he answered reporters' questions and discussed what they involved and why

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/04/27/trump-poll-approval-rating-100-days/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/official-polls/fox-news-poll-first-100-days-president-trumps-second-term>

<sup>6</sup> <https://news.gallup.com/poll/660002/americans-skeptical-benefits-tariffs.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/29/business/dealbook/trump-100-days-economy.htm>

<sup>8</sup> <https://apnorc.org/projects/most-say-musk-has-too-much-influence-amid-concerns-over-reductions-in-the-federal-government/>

<sup>9</sup> Martha Joynt Kumar, *Managing the President's Message: The White House Communications Operation* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007).p. 304,



he issued them. These sessions allowed Trump to speak directly to the attentive public and, through clips in later broadcasts on news shows at the national and local levels, see highlights during early and late news programs. But at a hundred days, while attentive and aware of what the President was promoting, the public was wary of what President Trump's policies would bring for them and their families.

## SEVEN PRESIDENTS AND THEIR INTERCHANGES WITH REPORTERS

at 1,462 days, January 20<sup>th</sup> at the End Four Full Years

### *PRESIDENT BIDEN: SUMMARY OF ALL INTERCHANGES WITH REPORTERS*

- **Press conferences:** 37
- **Informal question-and-answer sessions:** 679
- **Interviews:** 151

### *SUMMARY FOR ALL PRESIDENTS*

#### *Press Conferences: Solo and Joint with Foreign and Government Leaders*

##### **President Joe Biden**

Total: 37 [15 Solo; 22 Joint]  
 White House Solo: 3  
 Nighttime East Room: 0

##### **President Donald Trump**

Total: 127 [33 Solo; 94 Joint]  
 White House Solo: 22  
 Nighttime East Room: 0

##### **President Barack Obama**

Total: 79 [36 Solo, 43 Joint]  
 White House Solo: 22  
 Nighttime East Room: 4 [February 9, March 24, April 29, July 22, all 2009]

##### **President George W. Bush**

Total: 89 [17 Solo; 72 Joint]  
 White House Solo: 17  
 Nighttime East Room: 3 [October 11, 2001; March 6, 2003; April 13, 2004]

##### **President Bill Clinton**

Total: 133 [44 Solo; 89 Joint]  
 White House Solo: 33  
 Nighttime East Room: 4 [June 17, 1993, March 24, 1994; August 3, 1994; April 18, 1995]

##### **President George H. W. Bush**

Total: 143 [86 Solo; 57 Joint]  
 White House Solo: 60  
 Nighttime East Room: 2 [June 8, 1989, June 4, 1992]

##### **President Ronald Reagan**

Total: 27 [27 Solo; 0 Joint]  
 White House Solo: 27  
 Nighttime East Room: 19 [March 31, May 13, June 30, July 28, Sept. 28, Nov. 11, all 6 in 1982; Jan. 5, February 16, May 17, June 28, July 26, October 19, December 20 all 7 in 1983; February 22, April 4, May 22, June 14, July 24 all 5 in 1984; January 9, 1985]

#### **Period Covered for All Presidents**

Biden: 1/20/2021 – 1/20/2025  
 Trump I: 1/20/2017 – 1/20/2021  
 Obama: 1/20/2009 – 1/20/2013  
 W. Bush: 1/20/2001 – 1/20/2005  
 Clinton: 1/20/1993 – 1/20/1997  
 H.W. Bush: 1/20/1989 – 1/20/1993  
 Reagan: 1/20/1981 – 1/20/1985

*Informal Question-and-answer Sessions:**President Gives Remarks and Takes Reporters' Questions***President Joe Biden**

Total: 679

**President Donald Trump**

Total: 743

**President Barack Obama**

Total: 107

**President George W. Bush**

Total: 355

**President Bill Clinton**

Total: 626

**President George H. W. Bush**

Total: 336

**President Ronald Reagan**

Total: 185

*Interviews***President Joe Biden**

Total: 151

**President Donald Trump**

Total: 493

**President Barack Obama**

Total: 680

**President George W. Bush**

Total: 217

**President Bill Clinton**

Total: 193

**President George H. W. Bush**

Total: 384

**President Ronald Reagan**

Total: 289

*NOTES ON DATA COLLECTIONS*

\* The figures here are based on counts of official public events as found in White House press releases and pool reports as well as cross-checked with, first, the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents* [earlier from the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*] published by the National Archives and Records Administration [<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/cpd/2019/08>] and, second, the entries of public Presidential utterances included in the *Public Papers of the President* as found on The American Presidency website, [www.americanpresidency.org](http://www.americanpresidency.org), and third, the Presidential schedule and transcripts for each day that I receive them from the Press Office. My headings are based on ones used by the National Archives though I aggregate them [Remarks and Exchanges and Exchanges without accompanying remarks] into my own categories and divide press conferences into Solo and Joint ones.

**PRESS CONFERENCES.** Press conferences are divided into Solo and Joint sessions. The latter are usually held together with a foreign leader where each answers questions from reporters from the foreign and White House press corps members present. Both leaders first make statements, usually about what was discussed in their meeting, and then take questions. There also are occasional joint sessions with U.S. government officials. Solo sessions tend to be longer ones. I have noted how many Solo sessions a President has held in the White House compound. I have also noted how many of the Solo sessions occurred in prime time from the East Room, which as the “crown jewel” of Presidential interchanges involve the largest television audiences of any interchange. President George H. W. Bush is the first President to use Joint press conferences on a regular basis and his successors have continued the trend he began. His predecessors did so only occasionally. In March and April 2020, President Trump had long news conferences when the Task Force on the Covid virus came to the White House Briefing Room to speak. The President generally spoke first and answered questions at length. While they were sometimes titled as “briefings” these sometimes 120+ minute sessions fit into the category of news conferences and I counted them as news conferences even though the *Public Papers of the Presidents* had many of them as exchanges with reporters.

**SHORT QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSIONS.** “Short question-and-answer sessions” are informal sessions where reporters pose questions to the President, often unplanned, at the beginning or end of a meeting, when the President is leaving on for a trip on his helicopter, after remarks as he is leaving a room. This category is composed of the National Archives designation of “Exchanges with Reporters” where the President may or may not make remarks at the same time. For Presidents Trump and Biden, if the President responded to a reporter’s questions when there is no official White House transcript but the pool reporter captures an interchange with the President, I also included in this category pool reports. When the President travels out of town and there is only a small group covering him, the pool reporter is responsible for providing information other reporters can use in their stories. There is a rotating list of news organizations – print, television, radio – agreed upon by the White House Correspondents Association and the White House press operation that serve in the pool covering the President in those instances where all reporters cannot practically be present. In the second Trump administration, the White House communications and press offices did not regularly release transcripts of the President’s remarks.

**INTERVIEWS.** Unlike the other categories of news conferences and short question-and-answer sessions, “interviews” are only occasionally publicly released. They are regarded as the property of the news organization and, with some exceptions, the individual organizations control whether and when transcripts are released. For the Trump, Obama, George W. Bush, and William Clinton administrations, my figures represent some internal counts maintained by White House staff as well as additional interviews I find that may not have been listed on White House files. For recent Presidents, I comb online sources for interviews, use information from Pool Reports issued by reporters covering the President, references in reporters’ stories to their discussions with the President, and information I have obtained from reporters about their direct talks with the President either by phone or in person. I include the off-the-record luncheons, dinners, and meetings Presidents sometimes have with reporters because inevitably information journalists have acquired in those sessions is shared within their news organizations and sometimes makes its way into print.

For the interview numbers for Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush, I have used the White House Daily Diary, which is compiled from official internal records by the Diarist, an employee of the National Archives and Records Administration. The official President’s Daily Diary for Reagan can be found at: <https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/public/digitallibrary/dailydiary/1981-01.pdf>. Additionally, the Reagan Foundation has online an unedited version of Reagan’s personal diary, which I found particularly useful: <https://www.reaganfoundation.org/ronald-reagan/white-house-diaries/diary-entry-01231981/>. The full White House Daily Diary for President George H. W. Bush is available at the George H. W. Bush Library in College Station, Texas. For Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush, the President’s Daily Diary offers a more complete picture of the President’s interactions with those associated with news organizations because the diaries capture the phone calls they place and those they receive. Even when they are brief, I include these phone contacts in my counts because the information exchanged between the President and the journalist will be used in some way by them and / or their news organizations in their articles or planning of their news coverage. The full White House Daily Diaries for Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton are not yet available.

**WATCHING INTERCHANGES WITH REPORTERS ON FACTBA.SE AND C-SPAN.ORG.** You can watch most of the on-the-record video interchanges by President Biden and President Trump with the press as well as speeches at Factba.se and c-span.org. Most are also available on You Tube. You can find the full presidential transcripts on the American Presidency website as well as find on the site analysis using the information to bring understanding to many categories of presidential activities and issues.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Martha Joynt Kumar is an emeritus professor who served in the department of political science at Towson University and is director of the White House Transition Project, a non-profit, non-partisan group of presidency scholars who prepare information on White House operations. As a scholar with a research focus on the White House, she focuses her research on Presidential transitions, Presidential-press relations, and White House communications operations. Her most recent work on Presidential transitions include a book, *Before the Oath: How George W. Bush and Barack Obama Managed a Transfer of Power* (Johns Hopkins University Press), an article on the 2020 Biden transition operation: “Joseph Biden’s Effective Transition: ‘Started Early, Went Big’”( *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 2021), and a chapter in *Hand-Off: The Foreign Policy George W. Bush Passed to Barack Obama* edited by Stephen J. Hadley, Peter Feaver, William Imboden, and Meghan O’Sullivan. It came out in spring 2023 through the Brookings Institution. She received her B.A. from Connecticut College and her M.A. and PhD degrees from Columbia University.