

# MORTGAGE RATE WATCH

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## Mortgage Rates Unimpacted by New Executive Orders

Mortgage rates are driven predominantly by the bond market and bonds were able to clear up a few curiosities on inauguration day. Specifically, traders expected multiple executive orders with several focusing on proposed tariffs.

While history suggests the conventional wisdom may be faulty, the general belief is that tariffs increase inflation. Considering inflation correlates with higher rates, there was some relief in rates when the executive orders concerning tariffs turned out to be less aggressive than expected. In not so many words, the president ordered various agencies to assess trade agreements/deficits and recommend measures to address them, such as tariffs.

Bonds were thus able to hold onto the gains from last week with some additional improvement today. The average mortgage lender wasn't eager to adjust rates, however, with the top tier 30yr fixed rate remaining unchanged from last Friday.



### Tan & Samantha Tunador

VP | Sr Loan Officer Team,  
Atlantic Coast Mortgage,  
LLC

[www.TheTunadorGroup.com](http://www.TheTunadorGroup.com)

P: (703) 919-5875

M: (703) 328-0628

[tan@acmlc.com](mailto:tan@acmlc.com)

20365 Exchange Street  
Ashburn Virginia 20147

NMLS ID 1166669

NMLS ID 2408374



### Peter Leonard- Morgan

Associate Broker, Hunt  
Country Sotheby's  
International Realty

[www.peterleonardmorgan.com](http://www.peterleonardmorgan.com)

P: (540) 687-8500

M: (443) 254-5530

[peterleonard-morgan@huntcount  
rysir.com](mailto:peterleonard-morgan@huntcount<br/>rysir.com)

Middleburg VA

Hunt  
Country

Sotheby's