

AFFORDABILITY CRISIS

**TRUMP AND REPUBLICANS IGNORE
WORKING PENNSYLVANIANS,
RIPPING AWAY HELP AS COSTS SKYROCKET
AND ECONOMY STRUGGLES**



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AFFORDABILITY CRISIS: Trump and Republicans Ignore Working Pennsylvanians, Ripping Away Help As Costs Skyrocket and Economy Struggles

In Pennsylvania, Donald Trump's destructive economic policies are throwing everyone from farmers to small business owners into economic turmoil. His anemic economy is hitting the poorest Americans the hardest, and his policies are stoking a dire affordability crisis as food prices, energy prices, health care costs, and housing costs spike. Grocery prices are rising as consumers bear the brunt of Trump's tariff costs, fueling widespread pessimism in the economy across party lines. Meanwhile, after Trump cancelled hundreds of millions of dollars in Pennsylvania energy investments, utility costs continue to rise by an average of \$170 a month. Food and energy costs are slated to rise even more as winter approaches. Health care costs are also up, thanks to Trump and Republicans cancelling Affordable Care Act tax credits and slashing Medicaid. Worse still, thousands of Pennsylvania residents have lost their jobs this year thanks to Donald Trump's destructive economic policies as his budget cuts rip away vital assistance for food, early childhood education, and home heating from hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians.

Throughout his second term, Trump and Republicans in Congress have worked feverishly to obliterate the economic security of millions across the country – and working families are the ones paying the price for their reckless incompetence and determination to reward their rich and powerful friends at the expense of everyone else.

That is why commonwealth leaders like ourselves are coming together to highlight what President Trump has done to hurt Pennsylvanian families across our great commonwealth and to fight back against this reckless administration. We hope you will join us in standing up to Trump and his agenda that are skyrocketing costs across Pennsylvania.

Signed,

Rep. Tina Davis

Rep. Mike Schlossberg

Rep. Arvind Venkat

Rep. Justin Fleming

Rep. Josh Siegel

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Pennsylvania Cost of Living

- **PENNSYLVANIANS KNOW TRUMP IS RAISING COSTS:** The latest Franklin & Marshall College [poll](#) found that a majority of Pennsylvanians believe that Trump is handling rising costs poorly, and only 16 percent said they are better off financially than a year ago.
- **COST OF GROCERIES IS UP:** Food costs are [rising](#) nationwide thanks to Donald Trump's tariffs and America-last trade policies, leading some Pennsylvania consumers to [redefine their staples](#). Grocery prices [increased](#) month-over-month this summer at the fastest pace in three years – and it's only going to get worse. According to a professor who studies food prices, "In the cold months, we'll start to see that impact more, when domestic production isn't happening."
- **TRUMP TARIFFS ARE KILLING KEYSTONE STATE AGRICULTURE:** Pennsylvania farmers are [facing financial ruin](#) as a result of Trump's tariffs, which have increased the cost of farm equipment, fertilizer, steel, and aluminum and closed foreign markets to domestic farmers. Local farmers have said they "can't keep up with an unpredictable market." Trump's retaliatory tariffs, particularly on Canada, Mexico, and China, are [hurting Pennsylvania exporters](#). Local soybean farmers, already facing [labor shortages](#), high equipment costs, and environmental challenges due to climate change, are [hitting](#) rock bottom in the face of [Trump's tariffs](#) on China. In the first half of the year [alone](#), Pennsylvania faced a **tariff impact of \$1.6 billion**.
- **PA HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE UP THANKS TO TRUMP & REPUBLICANS:** Thanks to Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress, **nearly 500,000 Pennsylvanians** who buy health insurance on their own through the Affordable Care Act will see their coverage costs for next year [soar](#) after the Trump-GOP budget [ripped away](#) critical tax credits that make ACA coverage affordable, [facing](#) an **average premium increase of nearly 22%** for 2026. Around 153,000 Pennsylvania children [already lack health care coverage](#), and many more will go uninsured as a result of the Trump-GOP cuts. Without these tax credits, **monthly costs will skyrocket 102%**.
 - **LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES LOSE HEALTH CARE:** The Trump-GOP plan to [rip away](#) ACA tax credits will [hit](#) Pennsylvania small businesses [especially hard](#). 101,000 small business owners and 63,000 self-employed workers in the commonwealth [rely](#) on the ACA for coverage – nearly one-third of the total ACA enrollees in Pennsylvania – and 87% of small business owners [reportedly](#) want Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits.

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AXIOS Philadelphia

No end in sight for rising energy bills in Pennsylvania



Mike D'Onofrio Aug 1, 2025 - Environment

- **PA ENERGY COSTS ARE UP:** As Trump and Republicans [cancel](#) millions of dollars in Pennsylvania [clean energy investments](#), including key Philadelphia- and Pittsburgh-area [hydrogen hubs](#), **energy costs continue to rise** for Pennsylvanians. Effective Dec. 1, PECO – which serves [nearly 1.7 million](#) electric customers in Southeast Pennsylvania – [raised rates 6 percent](#), and PPL raised rates 3.7 percent for [around 1.5 million](#) Pennsylvania customers. Households across the commonwealth could see their utility bills [spike](#) by an average of \$170 a month as winter approaches, and Pennsylvanians are [expected](#) to see energy bills rise by \$314.64 annually by 2035. Consumers in a 13-state region that includes Pennsylvania could also see their electric bills [rise](#) another 1.5% to 5% starting next summer.
 - In addition to rising electricity bills, **wireless phone bills are sky-high** in Pennsylvania. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh both ranked in the top 20 cities in the country with the [most expensive wireless bills](#), both averaging more than \$200 a month.
- **JOB LOSSES:** Thousands of Pennsylvania residents have [lost their jobs](#) this year thanks to Donald Trump's destructive economic policies and devastating attacks on the federal workforce. Unemployment in the commonwealth has [risen](#) to 4 percent over the past 12 months, meaning 24,000 additional Pennsylvanians are [newly unemployed](#) this year, and [continues to rise](#). Dozens of companies in the commonwealth in industries ranging from [health care](#) to [auto manufacturing](#) have cut jobs as a result of Trump's tariffs shrinking operating revenues:
 - Lehigh Valley Health Network [cut](#) **between 600 and 700 jobs**.
 - The Cleveland Cliffs plant in Steelton, PA, [announced its closure](#) after [laying off](#) **559 workers** earlier this year.

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- **332** Corsa Coal mine employees in Somerset County [lost their jobs](#) after the company filed for bankruptcy in March.
 - Volvo [announced](#) **hundreds of layoffs** in Macungie, directly [citing](#) tariff challenges.
 - The University of Pennsylvania Health System [cut](#) **300 jobs**.
 - Philips Respironics [cut](#) **196 jobs** in Western Pennsylvania.
 - Prysmian Cables and Systems [announced the closure](#) of a Schuylkill County facility, impacting **150 workers**.
 - The Snyder of Berlin headquarters, located in Somerset County, will be [ceasing operations](#) by the end of 2026 and [laying off](#) “**the majority of the 96-person staff**.”
- **PA HOUSING CRUNCH:** Trump’s [disastrous tariffs](#) and [immigration policies](#) are [killing homebuilding](#) in Pennsylvania, exacerbating a [housing affordability crisis](#) in the commonwealth’s biggest metropolitan areas. Sky-high prices in Philadelphia are hitting renters and homebuyers alike. More Philadelphia renters are [becoming “cost-burdened”](#) by rising rents, and home prices in the Philadelphia area are [4.4% higher](#) than the national average, putting pressure on buyers.

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- **HELP RIPPED AWAY FROM PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES:** Trump's budget cuts are **ripping away** vital assistance for health care, food, and home heating from hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians.

- The Trump-GOP Big, Ugly Bill [cuts](#) \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, and will **strip health care coverage from 300,000 Pennsylvanians**.
- Trump and Republicans in Congress [cut \\$187 billion](#) in food assistance, which could **kick at least 143,000 Pennsylvanians off food assistance**. Over 1.9 million Pennsylvanians receive SNAP benefits, and [over 700,000](#) Pennsylvania children rely on SNAP for their day-to-day meals. Thanks to the Trump-GOP government shutdown, Pennsylvania stopped issuing SNAP payments on Oct. 16, leaving commonwealth residents without their full benefits for nearly a month and leaving local food pantries [overwhelmed](#).
- The GOP government shutdown [delayed](#) the start of the LIHEAP program, which more than **300,000 Pennsylvania households rely on** to light and heat their homes in the winter. This delay could leave even more Pennsylvanians [at risk](#) of having their power or heat cut off during the coldest months of the year.

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AFFORDABILITY PROMISES BROKEN: Trump Promised Pennsylvania Voters He Would Get Food Prices “Way Down,” “End Inflation,” and Cut Energy Prices 50%

- **TRUMP PROMISED LOWER FOOD PRICES:** During an April 2024 campaign rally in Schnecksville, Trump [pledged](#): “When you look at food prices now, where it’s gone up by double and triple and quadruple, and you can never get that back. But we’re going to get it way down, I promise you.”
- **TRUMP PROMISED TO SLASH ENERGY PRICES IN HALF:** During a September 2024 campaign rally in Erie, Trump [pledged](#): “Here’s a promise I’m making to you. I will cut your energy and electricity prices in half, 50%, five-O, within 12 months of taking the oath of office. Within 12 months of taking the oath of office, I will cut your energy prices by 50%. And it’s not going to be hard.” Later, in his 2024 Schnecksville rally, Trump further [pledged](#): “[W]e’re going to bring your energy so low that other things will follow.”
- **TRUMP PROMISED TO ‘END INFLATION’:** During his 2024 Erie rally, Trump [pledged](#): “We will end inflation and make America affordable again. We’re going to get the prices down. We have to get them down. It’s too much, groceries, cars, everything. We’re going to get the prices down.”