



THE PEACH STATE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS:

TRUMP AND REPUBLICANS RIP AWAY HELP FROM GEORGIA FAMILIES AS AFFORDABILITY CRISIS DEEPENS



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Trump and Republicans Rip Away Help From Georgia Families As Affordability Crisis Deepens

With the first year of Donald Trump's second term in the White House in the rear-view mirror, it is clearer than ever that his destructive policies are wreaking havoc on working Americans' economic security – especially in Georgia. Trump's agenda is hurting the local economy in all areas, from his disastrous tariff regime to his massive cuts to government funding, stoking a dire affordability crisis in the Peach State.

Inflation and the cost of living are the [top concerns](#) for most Georgia residents, and for good reason. In the first year of Trump's second term, Georgians paid [an average of \\$1,178 more](#) in goods and services compared to 2024. One in three Georgian voters are [now concerned](#) they will not be able to afford the cost of food over the next 12 months. Grocery prices in Georgia are [13 percent higher](#) than the rest of the country, and more than half of all renters in the state are [cost-burdened](#). With energy bills [spiking](#) and consumer confidence in [shambles](#), daily living is [more expensive than ever](#). Over 42 percent of Georgians are also [concerned](#) they will not be able to afford the cost of health care over the next 12 months. Thanks to Trump and Republicans' budget cuts, [more than 720,000](#) Georgians also stand to lose their health care. Small businesses, [especially Black-owned firms](#), are sounding the alarm about Trump's existential threats, including tariff-caused [supply disruptions](#), higher [inventory costs](#), and [health care premium hikes](#).

Instead of addressing the affordability crisis, Trump has [cut](#) thousands of jobs, [jeopardized](#) nearly \$4 billion in Georgia energy investments, and [ripped away](#) hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding for health care and food aid. Throughout Trump's second term, the President and Republicans in Congress have worked in lock-step to reward their rich and powerful friends at the expense of everyone else. They are obliterating the economic security of millions across the country – and working families are the ones paying the price.

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

Signed,
Rep. Shea Roberts
Minority Whip Sam Parks
Rep. Terry Cummings
Rep. Jasmine Clark

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- **COST-OF-LIVING IS GEORGIANS' TOP CONCERN:** Recent polling shows the economy is Georgians' **top concern**. Georgia residents are **facing** high prices **due to Trump's economic policies**. Contrary to Trump's rhetoric, **96 percent of the burden of Trump's tariffs is borne by U.S. importers and consumers**. New data shows that Georgia importers paid the **fourth-highest tariff bill in 2025**, with the **cost of Trump's tariffs** running around **\$12 billion** in the state. In the first year of Trump's second term, **Georgians paid an average of \$1,178 more in goods and services**. **Trump's tariffs have cost Georgia households an average of \$514** so far. **Nearly two-thirds** of Americans say Trump has **not gone far enough** in trying to reduce the price of everyday goods, and a majority say that Trump's policies have worsened economic conditions. In January, **consumer confidence fell to its lowest level since 2014** – even worse than at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **FOOD COSTS ARE UP:** Food costs are **rising** nationwide thanks to Donald Trump's tariffs and America-last trade policies – **especially in Georgia**. Georgia is now **among the top 15 states most cost-burdened by groceries**, meaning household incomes in Georgia are **not keeping up** with rising grocery prices in the state. **One in three Georgians are concerned they will not be able to afford the cost of food** over the next 12 months. **Georgia households are spending nearly 11 percent of their incomes on groceries**. The average Georgia household **spends** \$8,744 a year (around \$730 monthly) on groceries – **nearly 13 percent higher than the national average**, even though the median household income in Georgia is below the national average. **Food prices in the Atlanta area rose 5 percent last year alone** – *more than five times faster* than overall area prices:
 - Meat, poultry, fish and eggs: **up 7.8 percent** (8.7 times more than overall area inflation)
 - Eating out: **up 7.4 percent** (8.2 times more than overall area inflation)
 - Cereals and bakery products: **up 5 percent** (5.6 times more than overall area inflation)
 - Beverages (excluding alcohol): **up 3.8 percent** (4.2 times more than overall area inflation)
 - Fruits and vegetables: **up 0.8 percent** (about on par with overall area inflation)
- **GEORGIA SMALL BUSINESSES ARE SUFFERING:** Georgia's small businesses, from **beauty shops to chocolatiers**, have been **disproportionately hurt** by Trump's economic policies. Trade at Georgia's top ports is **flat**. The state is **home to over 1.3 million small businesses**. Black-owned businesses in the state are **especially vulnerable**, due to many of these businesses **facing higher input costs**, **running on thinner profit margins**, and starting with **less access to capital**. Atlanta is a hub for Black-owned businesses, holding the highest proportion of Black-owned firms in the

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country at [more than 10 percent](#) of all metro businesses. Columbus is also [among the top metros](#) with the highest rate of Black-owned businesses in the country. Black-owned beauty shops in particular have been [hit hard](#) by Trump's tariffs, as [costs increase](#) for hair extensions and hair glue typically sourced from abroad.

- **GEORGIA HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE UP THANKS TO TRUMP & REPUBLICANS:** [Over 42 percent](#) of Georgians are concerned they will not be able to afford the cost of health care over the next 12 months. The Trump-GOP Big, Ugly Bill [cuts](#) \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). More than **720,000 Georgians** [stand to lose](#) their health care because of Trump and Republicans' deep health care cuts.

- **Georgia hospitals are estimated to [lose \\$217 million a year due to Medicaid cuts alone](#).** The state [recently received](#) a rural health care grant from the Trump administration, but it [falls far short](#) of covering the \$626 million that hospitals in rural Georgia counties are projected to lose from the Trump-GOP cuts, and **leaves Georgia hospitals scrambling to come up with the remaining two-thirds of the lost funding** that [isn't covered](#) by the rural health grant. According to Protect Our Care's Hospital Crisis Watch, [13 Georgia hospitals and clinics](#) are closing, have already announced cuts, or are at risk of closure in the wake of the Trump-GOP bill.
- The Trump-GOP plan to [rip away ACA tax credits](#) will [hit](#) Georgia's small businesses [especially hard](#). **Over 270,800 small business owners** in the state [rely](#) on the ACA for coverage – nearly [1 in 5](#) ACA enrollees in Georgia. 87 percent of small business owners [reportedly](#) wanted Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits.

- **HOUSING CRUNCH:** [More than half](#) of Georgia renters and nearly a quarter of homeowners are cost-burdened. Georgia [ranks seventh](#) among cost-burdened renters. Many Georgia families are being priced out of homeownership as **Georgia faces a housing shortage**, especially in the Atlanta metro area, made worse by Trump's tariffs. A recent report by JPMorganChase [found](#) that **housing affordability has declined in Atlanta** over the past five years, particularly in lower-income areas, the suburbs, and the exurbs. Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, and Gwinnett counties are short more than 200,000 homes, partly because **homebuilders and homebuyers are heavily impacted by Trump's tariffs**. Trump's tariffs on building materials are expected to [increase](#) the price of a new home by about \$9,200. Meanwhile, **homeowners insurance rates have spiked [24% since 2023](#)**, and are [expected to rise another 10% in 2026](#).

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- **ENERGY COSTS SKYROCKETING:** Since Trump took office in January, residential electric bills are [up over 17 percent](#) nationwide, meaning the cost of household utilities is rising nearly *five times* faster than inflation overall. Locally, Climate Power [estimates](#) that electricity bills in Georgia are **rising by around \$70 annually**. Georgia already [ranks 35th](#) in energy affordability in the country, but Georgia Power [hiked rates](#) last summer anyway. In November, Georgians [ousted](#) two incumbent Republicans from the Georgia Public Services Commission by [25-point margins](#), which regulates utilities, in an election Georgia's Republican Attorney General and Secretary of State called a [referendum on affordability](#).
- **JOB LOSSES & LOST INVESTMENT:** Trump has **threatened \$3.9 billion in Georgia energy investments, cancelling, delaying, and forcing layoffs at eight energy-related projects**, leading to nearly 3,500 jobs threatened or lost. The Trump administration also [slashed](#) the budget of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is headquartered in Atlanta, by 5 percent, [slashing an estimated 500 jobs](#).
- **HELP RIPPED AWAY:** Trump's budget cuts are **ripping away vital assistance** for health care, food, and more from hundreds of thousands of Georgians.

→ Thanks to Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress, Georgians who buy health insurance on their own through the Affordable Care Act are [facing](#) an **average premium increase of 25 percent** for 2026. **More than 1.4 million people across the state** are seeing their coverage costs [at least double on average](#) this year. As of Feb. 5, **more than 200,000 Georgians have already dropped their ACA coverage** for 2026 after Trump and the GOP ripped away tax credits, resulting in a 14 percent decline in enrollment. [Higher premiums](#) are already **forcing some older Georgians to delay care**.

→ Trump and Republicans in Congress [cut \\$187 billion](#) in food assistance, which [helps](#) give nearly 1.4 million Georgians access to food. These cuts [leave an estimated 154,000 Georgia families at risk of losing their food aid](#) and will leave Georgia [without](#) nearly \$1.5 billion in annual federal funds – a 43 percent reduction. A recent poll by the University of Georgia shows that **a strong majority of Georgia voters, including nearly 60 percent of Georgia Republicans, think food assistance is important**. 3 in 5 Georgians [support](#) fully funding SNAP, and 57 percent of Georgians support increased funding.