



THE GRAND CANYON STATE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS:

**TRUMP AND REPUBLICANS
IGNORE SKYROCKETING COSTS,
DEEPENING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS
& RIPPING AWAY HELP FROM
ARIZONA FAMILIES**



DEFEND AMERICA
ACTION



***THE GRAND CANYON STATE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS:
Trump and Republicans Ignore Skyrocketing Costs, Deepening
Affordability Crisis & Ripping Away Help From Arizona
Families***

One year into Donald Trump's second term in the White House, his destructive policies have ripped away Arizonans' economic security. Trump's agenda is hurting the local economy in all areas, from his disastrous tariff regime to massive cuts to government funding, and the Trump-GOP Big, Ugly Bill, stoking a dire affordability crisis in the state.

Inflation and the cost of living are the top concerns for most Arizona residents – and for good reason. As many as 410,000 Arizonans stand to lose their health care as a result of the Trump-GOP budget, food prices are up, and hundreds of thousands of Arizona households are now severely behind on their utility bills as rates go through the roof and gas prices skyrocket. Trump has jeopardized \$3.6 billion in Arizona energy investments, costing the state nearly 9,000 jobs, and has ripped away hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding for health care and food aid. Nearly half of all Arizona households receiving food assistance, more than 400,000 households, have lost their benefits since Trump and Republicans ripped away funding last July. Small business owners are sounding the alarm about higher costs and health care premium hikes, demanding relief from Trump's tariffs. Likewise, Arizona schools are struggling amid Trump and DOGE's budget cuts and higher costs, with at least 12 Arizona school districts voting to close 22 schools in the past year alone.

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 state leaders like ourselves are coming together to highlight what President Trump has done to hurt Arizona 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 the Grand Canyon State.

Signed,

Sen. Lauren Kuby
Sen. Mitzi Epstein
Sen. Rosanna Gabaldón, Minority Whip
Sen. Analise Ortiz
Rep. Stephanie Simacek
Rep. Lorena Austin
Rep. Oscar De Los Santos, Minority Leader

Rep. Brian Garcia
Rep. Mariana Sandoval
Rep. Cesar Aguilar
Rep. Betty Vilegas
Rep. Nancy Gutierrez
Rep. Sarah Liquori
Rep. Aaron Marquez

- **COST-OF-LIVING IS ARIZONANS' TOP CONCERN:** According to recent polling, Arizonans are more concerned about inflation than any other issue, with [nearly 48%](#) expressing concern. **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 the country. Arizona residents are [facing high prices due to Trump's economic policies](#), and **migration to Arizona is slowing for the first time in decades, driven in part by the rising cost of living in the state, according to a Phoenix-based pollster.
 - **COST-OF-LIVING A TOP CONCERN AMONG ARIZONA LATINO VOTERS:** A recent poll conducted by UnidosUS [found](#) that **56 percent of Arizona Latino voters rated the cost of living and inflation as their top issue**. They rated housing costs, including rising rents and utility bills, as their second-most important issue, and **seven in 10 Arizona Latino voters believe President Trump and congressional Republicans are not focusing enough on improving the economy**.**
- **FOOD COSTS ARE UP:** Food costs are [rising nationwide](#) thanks to Donald Trump's tariffs, war in Iran, and America-last trade policies – [especially in Arizona](#). Tucson is seeing [higher food prices](#), and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona has experienced a rise in demand over the past few months. Even fast food prices have increased significantly; Arizona has seen the [most dramatic decline](#) in takeout affordability, with local rates **nearly 21 percent higher than the national average**. In 2023, takeout was just 1 percent higher than the national average.
- **ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COSTS ARE UP THANKS TO TRUMP & REPUBLICANS:** The Trump-GOP Big, Ugly Bill [cuts](#) \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). As many as **410,000 Arizonans stand to lose** their health care because of Trump and Republicans' deep health care cuts. Recent polling shows that Arizona voters [rank](#) health care as one of their top three most important issues.
 - **ARIZONA HOSPITAL CRISIS:** Arizona hospitals are estimated to [lose \\$709 million a year](#) due to Medicaid cuts alone. Arizona [already requested](#) \$1 billion from the federal government to shore up rural health care in anticipation of slashed budgets and was [awarded just 16 percent of the requested funding](#), receiving the **sixth-lowest award** despite [facing the eighth-highest funding cut](#).
 - **SMALL BUSINESSES STRUGGLE WITHOUT ACA TAX CREDITS:** The Trump-GOP plan to rip away ACA tax credits will hit Arizona small businesses [especially hard](#). **Over 70,000 small business owners** in the state [rely](#) on the

ACA for coverage – [1 in 6](#) ACA enrollees in Arizona. 87 percent of small business owners [reportedly](#) wanted Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits.

- A recent poll conducted by UnidosUS [found](#) that **Arizona Latino voters rated health care costs**, including rising monthly premiums and co-pays, as a **top-five issue**.
- **ARIZONA ENERGY COSTS SKYROCKETING:** Arizona households are paying more at the gas pump and forking over more every month to the utility companies providing everyday essentials.
 - **GAS PRICES SPIKED NEARLY 40% THANKS TO TRUMP'S WAR:** Trump's war in Iran has caused **gas prices to skyrocket in Arizona**. Arizona drivers are paying an average of [\\$4.67 a gallon](#) at the pump as of Apr. 14, **up 38%** from the statewide average last month.
 - **ARIZONA UTILITY BILLS ARE UP:** Since Trump took office in January, residential electric bills are [up over 17%](#) nationwide, meaning the cost of household utilities is rising nearly *five times* faster than inflation overall. **Arizona already has one of the highest average monthly utility bills** at [\\$289](#), and Climate Power [estimates](#) that electricity bills in Arizona are **rising by around \$240 annually**. **161,000 Arizona households are now severely behind on their utility bills**, as bills have [jumped](#) by over 50% since 2022. APS, Arizona's [largest electricity provider](#), is [pushing for](#) a 14% rate hike, which would [add](#) around \$20 to customers' monthly electric bills. Arizona's second-largest electricity provider, Salt River Project, [hiked rates](#) for 1.1 million Arizona customers in November. Tucson Electric Power, which serves nearly 500,000 Arizona customers, is also [seeking](#) a 14% rate hike, [effective](#) September 2026.
- **JOB LOSSES & LOST INVESTMENT IN ARIZONA:** Trump has **threatened billions of dollars in Arizona energy investments**, [cancelling, delaying, and forcing layoffs at seven energy-related projects](#) amounting to [over \\$3.6 billion](#) in funding for the state. Worse still, [nearly 9,000 jobs](#) in Arizona have been lost or delayed due to the Trump-GOP cuts. Trump cut clean energy investments in the state even as **three out of four Arizona voters say the state should implement more clean energy policies** to [meet](#) rising electricity demand, while data centers and high-tech chip plants [crop up](#) across the Arizona desert amid President Trump's AI push.
- **ARIZONA SMALL BUSINESSES ARE SUFFERING:** Trump's tariffs are [disproportionately hurting](#) small businesses in Arizona, which is [home](#) to **over 678,000 small businesses**. Arizona farmers, particularly [local cotton farmers](#), are [struggling](#) with Trump's tariffs after [taking a major financial hit](#) in 2025 and are [still waiting](#) for

promised relief. Small business owners in the state are now [pressing](#) local lawmakers for financial relief from losses and disruptions stemming from Trump's tariffs.

- **ARIZONA HISPANIC BUSINESS OWNERS ARE STRUGGLING:** A survey conducted by the U.S. Hispanic Business Council [found](#) that **around 43% of Hispanic business owners in Arizona rated their current economic situation as “impossible” or “struggling,”** while under 40% are merely “surviving,” and just 18% are “thriving.” The President and CEO of the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce [said](#), “We certainly do sense that our members – our clients in Arizona and across the country – feel a sense of betrayal by this administration.”
- **ARIZONA DEMOCRATS SUED THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OVER TARIFFS:** Arizona's Democratic Attorney General Kris Mayes [recently appeared](#) before the U.S. Supreme Court to challenge Trump's sweeping tariffs. She [argued](#) before the Court that tariffs are hurting small businesses by effectively forcing Americans to pay an average 17.5% national sales tax. The Court [sided with A.G. Mayes](#), striking down Trump's sweeping tariff policy.
- **ARIZONA SCHOOLS IN CRISIS:** Arizona schools are struggling amid [Trump and DOGE's budget cuts](#) and higher costs. Across the state, **school districts are closing schools** to address budget shortfalls as public funding dwindles, enrollment declines, and housing costs rise. **At least 12 Arizona school districts have voted to close 22 schools** in the past year in [Phoenix](#), [Scottsdale](#), [Tucson](#), [Peoria](#), [Gilbert](#), [Tempe](#), [Chandler](#), and more.
 - **SCHOOL FUNDING TURMOIL:** Earlier last year, the Trump administration [withheld](#) approximately **\$132 million in federal grants to Arizona public schools**, including [funding related to](#) migrant education, effective instruction, English language acquisition, student support and academic enrichment, and community learning centers – leaving schools [mired in](#) chaos and uncertainty. The full funding was only released [after the school year began](#), following a lawsuit against the Trump administration by Arizona's Democratic Attorney General.
 - **ARIZONA TEACHERS IN CRISIS:** **Arizona teachers are struggling amid high costs.** A recent survey found that Arizona teachers are [bearing the third-highest classroom supply costs](#) in the nation this school year, spending an average of \$1,581 per year out of pocket. Some Arizona school districts are even [building tiny affordable homes on school property](#) to help recruit and retain teachers.

- **HELP RIPPED AWAY:** Trump's budget cuts are **ripping away vital assistance** for health care, food, and more from hundreds of thousands of Arizonans.
 - **RIPPING AWAY HEALTH CARE PREMIUM TAX CREDITS:** Thanks to Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress, Arizonans who buy health insurance on their own through the Affordable Care Act are [facing](#) an **average premium increase of 29 percent** for 2026. **370,000 people across the state** are seeing their coverage costs [at least double on average this](#) year. **About 70,000 fewer Arizonans** have signed up for health insurance through the ACA this year after the Trump-GOP budget [ripped away](#) critical tax credits that make ACA coverage affordable – [nearly 17 percent fewer](#) than in 2025. All six of Arizona's Republican congressmen [voted against](#) extending the ACA tax credits, [ensuring](#) premiums would [spike](#).
 - **CUTTING ARIZONA FOOD ASSISTANCE ENROLLMENT IN HALF:** Trump and Republicans in Congress [cut \\$187 billion](#) in food assistance, which [helps](#) give nearly 800,000 Arizonans [access to food](#), including around 350,000 children. [More than 400,000 Arizonans have lost their SNAP benefits](#) since Trump and Republicans cut food assistance last July. That drop, the [largest in the country by far](#), represents **47% of the Arizona households** participating in the program. These cuts also [leave](#) Arizona [without](#) \$806 million in annual federal funds.