

DEFEND AMERICA  
ACTION

REPORT • AUGUST 2026

# The Silver State *Affordability* Crisis

*Trump and Republicans ignore skyrocketing costs, ripping away help from Nevada families as the affordability crisis deepens.*

A REPORT · AUGUST 2026

# Costs are skyrocketing for working Nevadans. Trump and Republicans are *ripping away help*.

On Wednesday, Donald Trump is stopping in Las Vegas to brag about his tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations. But a year and a half into Trump's second term, his policies have ripped away working Nevadans' economic security. The average Nevada family has already had to spend an estimated \$2,900 more on goods and services since Trump took office, and the squeeze is only deepening.

Cost of living is now the defining issue in the state – and for good reason. Nevada families spend nearly 20 percent more on groceries than the national average, and gas prices have climbed to around \$4.80 a gallon, among the highest in the nation, after Trump's war in Iran disrupted global oil supplies. Housing is slipping out of reach: more than half of Nevada renters are cost-burdened, and 2025 was the worst year for home sales in Southern Nevada since 2007. Ranchers, brewers, and coffee roasters are all sounding the alarm over tariff-driven costs, while health care premiums spike for tens of thousands of families. Trump has jeopardized hundreds of millions of dollars in Nevada energy investments and ripped away hundreds of millions more in federal funding for health care and food assistance. More than 100,000 Nevadans now stand to lose their health care because of the massive Trump-GOP cuts.

— BY THE NUMBERS

# The Silver State affordability crisis, in figures.

**\$2,900**

More that the average Nevada family has spent on goods and services in Trump's first year.

*Office of Senator Rosen*

**\$941**

Average cost of Trump's tariffs to a Nevada household.

*The Nevada Independent*

**\$4.80**

Average Nevada gas price per gallon as of Aug. 3 – up 40% from January.

*AAA*

**100,000+**

Nevadans who stand to lose health care due to Trump-GOP Medicaid and ACA cuts.

*The Nevada Independent*

**\$232M**

Annual loss to Nevada hospitals from the Trump-GOP Medicaid cuts alone.

*Third Way*

**132%**

Average ACA premium increase Nevadans have faced after Trump-GOP ripped away tax credits.

*Center for American Progress*

**7.5%**

Year-over-year drop in Las Vegas visitor volume in the wake of Trump's tariffs.

*8 News Now*

**80,000**

Nevadans who have already lost SNAP food assistance since the Trump-GOP bill passed in July 2025.

*Center on Budget & Policy Priorities*

---

**SECTION 01 · COST OF LIVING**

## Cost-of-living is Nevadans' *top concern*.

Nevada residents are facing high prices due to Trump's economic policies, and cost of living has become the defining issue of the 2026 election in the state. A recent poll found that pocketbook concerns – housing affordability, jobs, inflation, and the price of gas – are Nevada voters' number one issue, cutting across party, region, and age. In Trump's first year, the average Nevada family has had to spend an estimated \$2,900 more on goods and services. Trump's tariffs have cost Nevada households an average of \$941.

“*Cost of living has become the defining issue of the 2026 election – cutting across party, region, and age.*”

– STATEWIDE NEVADA POLL · 2026

---

**SECTION 02 · FOOD**

## Food costs are *up*.

Food costs are rising nationwide thanks to Donald Trump's tariffs and America-last trade policies – especially in Nevada. Nevada is now among the top 10 states most cost-burdened by groceries, meaning household incomes in Nevada are not keeping up with rising grocery prices in the state. Nevada households are spending nearly 12 percent of their incomes on groceries. The average Nevada household spends \$9,310 a year (around \$775 monthly) on groceries – nearly 20 percent higher than the national average, even though the median household income in Nevada is slightly below the national average.

---

**SECTION 03 · SMALL BUSINESS**

## Nevada small businesses are *suffering*.

Trump's tariffs disproportionately hurt Nevada's small businesses, especially those that rely on tourism. Nevada's economy is heavily reliant on tourism, which brings in around 40 percent of Nevada's GDP and supports roughly 1 in 3 jobs in the state. In the wake of Trump's tariffs, Las Vegas tourism dropped 7.5 percent in year-over-year visitor volume. Nevada's small businesses, from ranches to breweries, have been hurt by Trump's economic policies. The state is home to over 330,000 small businesses. Nevada ranchers have been hit hard by Trump's chaotic trade policies on beef, and have pushed back against his plans to increase imports from Argentina. Small farms and food businesses in Nevada lost \$3 million in USDA support in 2025 thanks to Trump's budget cuts. Coffee roasters and wholesalers in Nevada have had to raise prices to offset Trump's tariffs. The co-owner of a Hispanic-owned brewery in Las Vegas told reporters it was a "very slow, scary summer" as a result of Trump's tariffs spiking canning prices and the cost of living.

---

### *Business sentiment down.*

A survey conducted by the U.S. Hispanic Business Council found that over a third of Hispanic business owners in Nevada rated their current economic situation as "impossible" or "struggling," while nearly a majority reported merely "surviving," and just 16 percent said they were "thriving." The President of Nevada's Latin Chamber of Commerce said that local companies are concerned about high prices and slowing tourism: "Inflation's got to come down...cost of goods and services – we rely heavily on construction here, and if it costs too much, then we're not going to have construction and that's going to have devastating effects on the rest of the economy."

---

**SECTION 04 · HEALTH CARE**

## Health care costs are up thanks to *Trump & Republicans*.

The Trump-GOP Big, Ugly Bill cut over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). More than 100,000 Nevadans stand to lose their health care because of Trump and Republicans' deep health care cuts. Nevada hospitals are estimated to lose \$232 million a year due to Medicaid cuts alone. The state received a rural health care grant from the Trump administration, but it falls far short of covering the massive state funding gap created by the Trump-GOP bill and leaves Nevada hospitals scrambling to come up with tens of millions of dollars.

---

**SECTION 05 · HOUSING**

## The *housing crunch*.

Trump has turned a blind eye to the housing affordability crisis gripping the nation. Nevada residents are struggling to afford housing in the Silver State, which ranks 43rd in the country for housing affordability. More than half of Nevada renters and nearly a quarter of homeowners are cost-burdened. Nevada ranks second-highest among cost-burdened renters, behind only Florida, and ranks fifth in cost-burdened homeowners. In Southern Nevada, record numbers of families are being priced out of homeownership. After Trump's tariffs on building materials increased the price of new home construction, 2025 was the worst year for home sales in Southern Nevada in nearly two decades.

---

SECTION 06 · ENERGY

## Energy costs *skyrocketing*.

Trump's tariffs and wars of choice have sparked a national energy affordability crisis that has hit Nevada especially hard. Trump's war in Iran has caused gas prices to skyrocket in Nevada, forcing local drivers to pay an average of \$4.80 a gallon at the pump as of Aug. 3, up 40 percent from the statewide average in January. Since Trump took office in January, residential electric bills are up 18 percent nationwide. Locally, Climate Power estimates that electricity bills in Nevada are rising by around \$36 annually.

---

**SECTION 07 · JOBS & INVESTMENT**

## *Job losses* & lost investment.

Trump has threatened hundreds of millions of dollars in Nevada energy investments, cancelling, delaying, and forcing layoffs at energy-related projects amounting to over \$200 million in funding for the state, threatening or killing 450 jobs in the process.

---

**SECTION 08 · HELP RIPPED AWAY**

## Help *ripped away*.

Trump's budget cuts are ripping away vital assistance for health care, food, and more from hundreds of thousands of Nevadans.

---

### *Ripping away health care premium tax credits.*

Thanks to Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress, Nevadans who bought health insurance on their own through the ACA and received tax credits have faced an estimated average premium increase of 132 percent, with over 94,000 people across the state seeing their coverage costs for this year soar after the Trump-GOP budget ripped away critical tax credits that make ACA coverage affordable, forcing some to forego care entirely. With premiums rising, thousands fewer Nevadans signed up for health insurance through the ACA this year.

---

### *Small businesses suffer without ACA tax credits.*

The Trump-GOP plan to rip away ACA tax credits will hit Nevada's small businesses especially hard. Over 22,000 small business owners in the state rely on the ACA for coverage – 1 in 5 ACA enrollees in Nevada. 87 percent of small business owners reportedly wanted Congress to permanently extend ACA tax credits.

---

### *Cutting Nevada food assistance.*

Trump and Republicans in Congress cut \$187 billion in food assistance, which helps give nearly 505,500 Nevadans access to food. By 2030, these cuts will cause an estimated 265,000 residents to lose some or all of their food aid and leave Nevada without \$336 million in annual federal funds – a 31 percent reduction. Nearly 80,000 Nevada residents have already lost food assistance through SNAP since the passage of the Trump-GOP bill in July 2025.

# DEFEND AMERICA ACTION

DEFEND AMERICA ACTION • AUGUST 2026

## *Working Nevadans are paying the price. It's time to fight back.*

Defend America Action is a 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to defending working families from the destructive policies of the Trump administration and Congressional Republicans.

Every figure and citation in this report links to its source — from Nevada state officials and the Nevada Independent to KFF, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Climate Power, and Nevada's independent newsrooms.

---

*DefendAmericaAction.org*

© 2026 DEFEND AMERICA ACTION