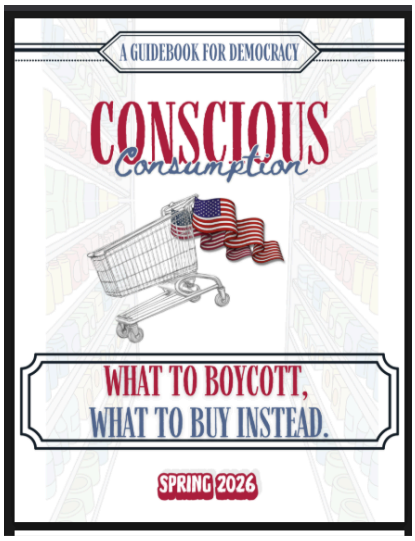
Boycotts (new page)

New Conscious Consumption Guidebook March 2026



Viva La Resistance Publishing just released a new Conscious Consumption Guidebook for Democracy. It recommends where to shop, and not, across industries such as gas stations, retailers, restaurants, and big tech based on support for Trump vs. democratic values. It also highlights Trump billionaire buddies and their companies, such as Larry Ellison/Tik Tok and Ron Lauder/Estee Lauder. There are two versions of the booklet: One is to be printed full size (or half sized). CC guidebook full size. One is to be printed as a 16 page mini zine on one piece of paper, for an economical handout. Mini zine assembly instructions: print double sided/flip on short end, cut page in quarters, stack the quarter pages with cover on bottom facing down, and technology in middle facing up. Fold the stack in half, and staple in the middle of the crease. CC guidebook mini zine. Here is a visual version of assembly instructions. CC zine assembly.

Home Depot Boycotts Growing March 2026

VA Grassroots has been boycotting Home Depot since early last year due to its historic and recent support for MAGA policies; other organizations are joining the boycott. Why? Well first, for decades Home Depot's billionaire founder Bernie Marcus was a major donor to Republican politicians supporting conservative values and causes. Since 2020, Home Depot has donated heavily to election deniers, MAGA and right-leaning politicians, per Open Secrets. Currently, Home Depot does not seem to be resisting ICE raids targeting day laborers outside its stores. Join the movement against Home Depot here at https://boycotthomedepot.network/. In lieu of shopping at Home Depot, try your local hardware stores and garden centers, or an ACE hardware, which are independently owned. Also, please unsubscribe from Home Depot's email list, delete the app from your phone, and cancel your Home Depot credit card and any other accounts you have with the company. Other actions, such as contacting the company, flooding social media, and adopting a store, are detailed here: Home Depot Toolkit. PS - Ace Hardware is a great alternative to Home Depot in Northern Virginia.

Conscious Consumption of Technology February 2026

Releasing new research on technology companies, and what you can do to be a counter force against the "tech bros" authoritarian support. Please



bookmark this, because it will take time for you to absorb and act on all this info. Then, consider the recent news about Amazon; its web services are used by ICE, it is willing to lose $ tens of millions producing a documentary on Melania, and it caused the downturn at the Washington Post by adopting Trump friendly policies in 2024 and 2025, which alienated subscribers and resulted in Jeff Bezos laying off 30% of the Post's staff last week. Other Amazon ills are detailed here: Amazon Write Up. Amazon is not alone in supporting the authoritarian regime; Apple executives attended the Melania movie premiere and donated to Trump's inauguration and ballroom. Google has ICE contracts, donated to the inauguration, ballroom, and Heritage Foundation. Other tech companies are part of this too. Read a lot more here, including alternatives to these technologies: Tech Bros Write Up. Also, see some bigger names with similar ideas about the tech cos, including the Bernie Sanders affiliated Our Revolution; AI tech article here and media article here. and business professor Scott Galloway's Resist and Unsubscribe checklist.

Keep Consuming Consciously and Supporting Small or Democratic Leaning Businesses January 2026



Key principles of Conscious Consumption include patronizing smaller businesses and avoiding big businesses that support the Trump Regime. If you were part of this over the holidays, great work, and keep at it! If not, resolve to start now, because these Conscious Consumption principles still apply every day; your spending year round can have an impact. Here are some key ways to consume consciously and vote with your dollars. One has to do with oil companies that stand to benefit from the invasion of Venezuela. Others focus on food, since many people are reconsidering what they eat starting in January. One focuses on the most mundane everyday items; toilet paper and paper towels. To join us on the Conscious Consumption journey and get on our email list for new research, click here: CC on Mobilize.

- **Avoid big oil branded gas in favor of "no name" or retailer owned gas, such as Costco, Safeway, and Wawa**. Big oil makes less money when you don't buy their branded gas. Avoid the company-owned gasoline stations that stand to benefit most from Trump's invasion of Venezuela; Chevron. Here are links to ID company owned stations (not franchises which are owned by small businesses): Chevron Owned Locations. If you are ambitious and want to attend or organize a demonstration at a Chevron location, May Day has a helpful toolkit here: Chevron Demonstration Toolkit. Also avoid Citgo, Exxon Mobil, Phillips 66, Valero, and Sunoco. If you need to buy branded gas, choose Shell. Read more here: Oil Cos.
- **Favor local restaurants over the big national chains**. Some national restaurant chains have long supported highly conservative values and politics. Others

helped the Trump regime get elected; click this link, or scroll down below, for restaurant chains to avoid, and some more democratic leaning chains that are okay. Restaurant Chains to Avoid and Alternatives. This write up also names local pizza and burger places in NoVA.

- **Support local restaurants (and stores.)** Here is a list of recommended NoVA local restaurants developed around Arlington, VA (and some retail stores too): WofA Local Biz List. Note that local restaurants and shops are often located in the "historic downtowns" like Old Town Alexandria and Fairfax, downtown Fredericksburg, Occoquan, Clifton, Vienna, Herndon, etc.
- **Don't forget about everyday items like household paper (toilet paper and paper towels.)** Even your choice of paper towel brands has an impact because one of the world's largest paper companies, Georgia Pacific, has been a heavy donor to conservative politics and think tanks. Read more here GA Pacific Boycott or scroll down below, then test your knowledge with a quiz, and pledge to make better paper goods choices for democracy and the environment here: TP Quiz Pledge Mobilize.
- Continue to avoid Amazon and Home Depot for their support of the Trump regime. Read about Amazon alternatives click here Reasons to Avoid Amazon, and Alternatives, or scroll down below.

Keep Going with Holiday Shopping Patterns - We Ain't Buying It Campaign and Conscious Consumption December 2025

The We Ain't Buying It Campaign, boycotting Amazon, Home Depot and Target during the important Black Friday to Cyber Monday shopping period, had mixed impact. One of the organizers, Black Voters Matter, noted in an email that the campaign had some media impact. "Together, we reached over 2.6 million people with paid ads, built a coalition of 226 partners, earned more than 800+ media mentions, and inspired millions nationwide. Our message is everywhere — from billboards to news stories — and it's being heard loud and clear that We Ain't Buying It!" News stories report little economic impact from the campaign, and good industry-wide retail sales early in the holiday season, but we are still waiting for individual company results as the final measure of impact on the targeted companies.

Be a Conscious Consumer this Holiday Season, which addresses what you buy, where you buy it, and how you wrap it. These principles still apply every day; your spending

year round can continue to have impact. What to buy - secondhand goods, practical gifts, experiences versus goods; consider buying less. Where to shop - small businesses locally and online, non-profits, and charity thrift stores. **Our naughty list of large retailers includes Amazon and Home Depot. Our nice list of large retailers includes Costco, Burlington, and REI.** Read more here: CC Holiday Write Up and pledge to join here: CC Pledge. While

Ongoing Boycotts

Do not watch WJLA-7, the Washington DC ABC affiliate station owned by Sinclair Broadcasting, or any other Sinclair owned station, because of its conservative propaganda. While Sinclair did restore Jimmy Kimmel's show as of Friday, Sept. 26 due to customer backlash, for years Sinclair has been broadcasting conservative propaganda masquerading as local "news," giving local anchors a script to follow. See this video of Sinclair anchors: Sinclair News Anchors Follow Script. Per *The Guardian*, propaganda continued into the 2024 election. The number one action you can take is simply to stop watching Sinclair stations; you can also email the company using this link Sinclair Contact Form, and join in-person protests at the TV stations. In addition, you can express your displeasure with WJLA advertisers, who include FH Furr, Window World, McCarthy Home Services, Koons Automotive, Washington Area Toyota Dealers, Long Fence, and Marks & Harrison. Please scroll to the bottom of this page for advertiser contact info. For stations outside of Northern Virginia, please see this map of Sinclair owned stations by state is here: Sinclair Station Map. The list includes the ABC station in Richmond, the Fox affiliate in Richmond, the My TVZ in Norfolk, and the NBC station in TN/VA.

Georgia Pacific Paper, which is owned by Koch Industries. Koch Industries is the 2nd largest privately held company in the U.S. per *Forbes*, 84% owned by the Koch family, and run by heirs of the Koch Brothers. Most of Koch's companies are industrial; Georgia Pacific is its most consumer-facing entity. The company has long been a heavy donor

to Republican politicians, per Open Secrets. For decades, the Koch Brothers funded a network of conservative groups, and lobbied against environmental progress. Their network includes The Heritage Foundation, which developed Project 2025, and the Federalist Society, which stacked the Supreme Court with conservative justices who are enabling Trump's authoritarian power grab. Background here: NBC News Story Kochs and Wikipedia Koch Network. Join us by taking the TP Pledge and Quiz here: https://forms.gle/ZTDNzim7DeXxs4wA8. To prep for the quiz, you can review the info below. And please tell everyone you know! Thank you!

- **Georgia Pacific** makes paper towels under the brands **Brawny** and **Sparkle**, toilet paper under the brands **Quilted Northern** and **Angel Soft**, napkins under the brand **Vanity Fair** and all **Dixie** branded cups and plates. These are sold in most major grocery, drug, and discount chains in the U.S., including Walgreen, CVS, Walmart, and Target. GP also makes private label products, including the popular Kirkland Signature toilet paper and paper towels. These brands also have bad ratings by the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) for their environmental impact.

- **Any other brands are better! Best alternatives** include **Marcal** and **Seventh Generation** paper goods, which have higher recycled content than other major brands. Or **Who Gives a Crap** and **Reel**, which make bamboo based paper goods. Other (less environmentally friendly) options include **Bounty** paper towels and **Charmin** toilet paper, made by Procter & Gamble, **Cottonelle** and **Scott** paper towels and toilet paper, made by Kimberly Clark (which is a Texas based company, so if you are unhappy with Texas for its gerrymandering and other issues, choose another brand). For a ranking of paper brands by their environmental impact, please consult the NRDC here: https://www.nrdc.org/stories/best-worst-tissue-brands. Consider using non-disposable alternatives such as cloth napkins, washable cups and plates, and "unpaper towels."

Amazon, owned by billionaire Jeff Bezos. Because Amazon.com is so popular, we are publishing a detailed list of reasons to consider not shopping there, which include Amazon's labor practices, some changes in corporate policies, and Jeff Bezos catering to Trump in many ways.

Amazon (which runs **Amazon.com, Amazon Prime, Amazon Web Services, Whole Foods Market, The Washington Post)** has a long history of poor labor practices, including time pressure and high injury rates for amazon.com workers. Also, founder Jeff Bezos is one of the three "tech oligarchs" who donated so much money to Trump, they had front row seats at his inauguration. Amazon is also on the list of corporate donors for Trump's ballroom. Amazon has catered to Trump by cancelling corporate diversity programs, heeding Trump's request to hide the impact of tariffs on its retail prices, and defunding local events like the 2025 Juneteenth

celebration in Atlanta. Pre-Trump, Amazon ended many social impact programs, such as composting and recycling programs in Whole Foods stores and the Amazon Smile non-profit donation program on amazon.com. Amazon is an important customer of Palantir, the software company with many government contracts that is reportedly compiling a master database of government information to potentially surveil Americans. (Palantir's founder Peter Thiel bankrolled JD Vance's career since law school.) Finally, Bezos recently changed the Washington Post editorial page policy to "defend…personal liberty..and free markets" prompting numerous staff resignations. Other groups are boycotting Amazon, so let's join them in making this a bigger thing! NYC Amazon Boycott, Peoples Union Amazon Boycott. Here are some alternatives to Amazon: Amazon alternatives.

Home Depot. Billionaire founder Bernie Marcus has historically been a major donor to Republican politicians supporting conservative values and causes. Since 2020, Home Depot has donated heavily to election deniers, MAGA and right-leaning politicians, per Open Secrets. Currently, Home Depot does not seem to be resisting ICE raids targeting day laborers near its stores. The Peoples Union is also boycotting Home Depot, see here: Peoples Union Home Depot Boycott.

Avelo Airlines. Avelo is a smaller US airline that has a contract with ICE to fly deportees out of the country. In Virginia, Avelo flies commercially out of Dulles Airport. There is an organized movement to "Ground Avelo" by boycotting flights and demonstrating at Avelo's airports, among other actions; more information here: https://www.groundavelo.org/. Indivisible is supporting this boycott.

Musk Owned Businesses (Tesla and Starlink). Anyone who has been awake since last fall knows Elon Musk's role in electing Trump and starting the Department of Government Efficiency. Boycotts and demonstrations at Tesla dealerships have been working, and are ongoing; click here to find one in VA, DC or MD: Resistance Events. Also, **Starlink has a new contract with T-Mobile, so T-Mobile should be boycotted**.

Conservative Restaurant Chains. **Why?** Many restaurant chains support conservative rather than liberal values and politics. **Most are against raising minimum wage and giving benefits,** because their business model depends on low cost labor. Some have historically been this way; others have changed more recently, often due to ownership changes. For example, Atlanta-based Roark Capital, a conservative donor, has bought Dunkin, Baskin Robbins, and Subway in recent years. McDonald's is also on the Peoples Union boycott list; see here McDonald's on Peoples Union List. Below we highlight restaurant chains to boycott, and alternatives to those chains, because you don't need to give up pizza, burgers, and ice cream! Local family owned restaurants are almost always better alternatives to chain restaurants.

Restaurants to Boycott	Why?	Alternatives

Chick Fil A	Has long supported conservative values and politics. Founder opposes marriage equality.	Local chicken chains. **Popeye's** is slightly better; its parent company Restaurant Brands has mixed donation history.
Private equity owned chains: **Arby's**, Auntie Anne's, **Baskin Robbins**, BW3, Carl's Jr, Carvel, Cinnabon, Culver's, Dave's Hot Chicken, **Dunkin**, Hardees, Jamba, **Jimmy John's**, Moe's Southwest, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Schlotzky's, Seattle's Best, Sonic, **Subway**	These owned and franchised chains are all managed by private equity firm Roark Capital, which was a major donor to conservative politics and causes in 2024 and before then, per Open Secrets.	Local chains for ice cream, smoothies, baked goods, coffee, subs and sandwiches, burgers, chicken, etc. Per Progressive Shopper, **Wetzel's Pretzels** is liberal. **Dairy Queen** is owned by billionaire Warren Buffett. **Firehouse Subs** has same owner as Popeye's (more balanced)
Pizza delivery chains: **Domino's, Papa John's, Little Caesar's, Pizza Hut**	Domino's founder Tom Monaghan, Papa John's founder John Schnatter, and Little Caesar's and Pizza Hut, have long donated to conservative politicians	Local pizza chains like **Bolis**, **Crust, Chanello's, Ledo's, Church Street, Andy's, Pomodoro, Tony's, Mama Lucia, Luciano's, Santini's**
Burger Chains: **Wendy's, McDonald's**	Both are major conservative donors since the 1990s per Open Secrets.	Local burger chains. **Five Guys** seems relatively apolitical on Open Secrets. **Burger King** (owned by Restaurant Brands Inc.) is more balanced on Open Secrets.
Outback	Per Open Secrets, conservative political donor since the 1990s	Local steakhouses; **Longhorn** chain is liberal per Progessiveshopper.com

Other Boycotts

Monsanto (makes Roundup, now a subsidiary of German owned Bayer AG) had a history of very conservative leaning donations prior to being acquired by Bayer in 2018. Monsanto raises many environmental and health concerns, as weed killer Roundup has been deemed "probably carcinogenic to humans" by the International Agency for Cancer Research. Roundup is embroiled in many lawsuits. Monsanto also made the notorious Agent Orange used in the Vietnam War, which was also the subject of many lawsuits. We suggest using less toxic or natural alternatives to Roundup for weed killing, potentially composed of vinegar, salt water, and/or dish soap.

El Salvador-made products.

Underwear, Tshirts, Intimates. Hanes Brands Inc has factories in El Salvador. Brands include Hanes t-shirts and underwear, Bali, Maidenform, Playtex, and Just my Size intimates, and others brands outside the US. Hanes has manufacturing in many other countries besides El Salvador (Dominican Republic, Honduras, Indonesia, Vietnam, etc.) **Fruit of the Loom** (underwear) and **Gildan** (t shirts mostly) are also manufactured in El Salvador and other countries.

Coffee is exported from El Salvador under a variety of brands, and directly to specialty coffee chains like Starbucks and McDonald's. Export brands include Bean of Fire and Topeca Coffee Roasters (Manzano and Ayutepeque). Other brands and specific coffees from El Salvador include Mapache Coffee, Royal Coffee's El Gobiado Rainbow Bourbon and Cerro Las Ranas Honey, Huckleberry Roasters's El Salvador Productores Cafénor, and Alpen Sierra Coffee's Cafe L'Etranger Anaerobic Natural.

Packaged Food/Drink from El Salvador, which may be sold at US stores and on websites such as Amazon, include Diana (snacks and candy), Jumex (juices), and Livsmart (beverages and candy).



How to Research Companies

Want your consumption of consumer products and services to support your values? Consult the websites below.

- Large companies - https://www.goodsuniteus.com/ and https://www.opensecrets.org/ - Have company search features to see company and employee donations to politicians and political parties, with data gathered from public records.
- Large companies - https://progressiveshopper.com/ - Has a company search feature and links to numerous data sources that highlight companies based on their support of issues such as gun control/rights, LBGTQ rights, environment, etc.
- Smaller companies - publicsquare.com - Small businesses sign up for this website for companies supporting "anti woke" values "for life, family, and liberty". You can search by zip code to find local businesses.
- Smaller companies - https://littlebluecart.com/ - Small businesses providing consumer services or selling consumer products that self-identify as "progressive" can request approval to be on this site. You can search by service or product category.

Contact Info for Sinclair TV Advertisers in DC Metro Area

F.H. Furr (HVAC, Plumbing, Electrical) – DC/MD/VA/DE

- Main site/contact: fhfurr.com/contact/ Fh Furr
- Sample service locations: Rockville MD (685 Lofstrand Ln), Finksburg MD (1584 Deer Park Rd), Glen Burnie MD (530 McCormick Dr, Ste Q), Columbia MD (9140 Guilford Dr, Ste M); New Castle DE (21A Industrial Blvd) Fh Furr
- Additional reference (company page/offerings): fhfurr.com Fh Furr
- BBB lists exec contact (CEO: Darius Lyvers) and a general contact. Better Business Bureau

Window World (HQ & national franchise network)

- Corporate office: **118 Shaver St, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659**; **(866) 740-2100**; windowworld.com/contact Window World
- Company overview (founded 1995; HQ North Wilkesboro, NC): windowworld.com/about Window World

McCarthy – clarify which one you need (two similarly named orgs):

1. **McCarthy Services (ARS), Northern Virginia HVAC/Plumbing** — Alexandria/Springfield area service; ARS page: ars.com/mccarthy-services; Yelp lists **7435 Boston Blvd, Springfield, VA 22153** (24/7). Ars+1
2. **McCarthy's Home Services (Cincinnati, OH)** — housekeeping/cleaning: **(513) 528-0814; 4181 Forsythia Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45245.** Cincinnati Housekeeping+1

Koons Automotive (dealer group – DC/MD/VA)

- Main site & locations: koons.com / koons.com/our-locations koons.com+1
- Customer service (example store page): **703-936-2340** (sales/service lines shown) koonsjeep.com
- Corporate presence/addresses (LinkedIn lists Vienna/Alexandria sites): **2000 Chain Bridge Rd, Vienna, VA; 5800 Edsall Rd, Alexandria, VA; 8610 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA** LinkedIn

Washington Area Toyota Dealers (regional contact)

- Regional dealer association for new auto dealers: **WANADA** (Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association) — **5301 Wisconsin Ave NW, Ste 210, Washington, DC 20015; (202) 237-7200; info@wanada.org** WANADA

- Toyota dealer directory (find specific Washington-area Toyota stores): toyota.com/dealers/directory/ Toyota

Long Fence (residential/commercial fencing, DMV region)

- Corporate/primary office: **8545 Edgeworth Dr, Capitol Heights, MD 20743; (301) 350-2400**; longfence.com/contact LongFence
- Additional MD location: **2520 Urbana Pike, Ijamsville, MD 21754; (301) 662-1600** LongFence

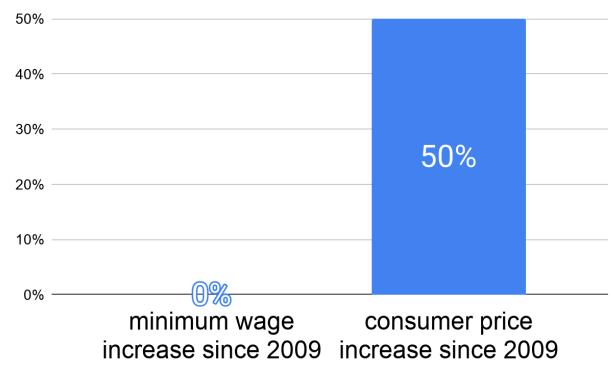
Marks & Harrison (personal injury law firm, VA/DC/MD)

- Main contact: **(800) 283-2202; Contact form:** marksandharrison.com/contact-us/ Marks & Harrison
- HQ noted in Richmond; firm overview: marksandharrison.com/home/ Marks & Harrison
- Locations page (sample offices & phones, incl. Alexandria, Warrenton, Roanoke, Charlottesville): marksandharrison.com/our-locations/

Trump's Economy

Trumpflation "Only" 3.5% in June; Inflation Up 50% From 2009-2025

7/15/2026 by LR



Trumpflation - inflation directly caused by President Trump's policies - slowed a bit in June 2026, but will likely increase next month; all due to the temporary ceasefire in Iran and its impact on gas prices. So Trump is still very far from his campaign promise of "lowering prices on Day 1." Instead, his unilateral policy choices about wars and tariffs have made life more expensive for all Americans, which is the exact opposite of what people voted for. Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), BLS Monthly Inflation Report, consumer prices rose at 3.5% in June from the previous year, which is better than last month's inflation rate of 4.2%, but still well above policy makers' target inflation rate of 2% or less.

Taking a longer term look at inflation and comparing it to wages, inflation since 2009 has vastly outpaced wage growth, which is a key reason we have an affordability problem in the U.S. Specifically, when you tally up the BLS inflation reported every year since 2009 through Trump 2.0's first year in 2025, prices are up a whopping 50%! Yet the minimum wage has not increased at all since 2009. No wonder so many Americans think life is unaffordable, when prices have gone up 50%, and their wages have not gone up. This fall, voters seeking affordability should consider candidates who support policies that increase wages and lower costs, such as raising the minimum wage, ending the war in Iran, and improving the healthcare system.

Trumpflation Getting Even Worse; Trump "Loves the Inflation" 6/16/2026 by LR



Trumpflation - inflation directly caused by President Trump's policies - got worse yet again in May 2026. So Trump is farther than ever from his campaign promise of "lowering prices on Day 1;" instead, his unilaterally-made policy choices about wars and tariffs have made life more expensive for all Americans, which is the exact opposite of what people voted for. Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), BLS Monthly Inflation Report, consumer prices rose at 4.2% in May from the previous year, which is faster than last month's 3.8%, and well above policy makers' target inflation rate of 2% or less. Sadly, the public received another indication that Trump doesn't care about how these price increases are affecting them. Last week, Trump was widely quoted as saying in the Oval Office, "I love the inflation." Perhaps Trump feels this way because entities

that he DOES care about, including the big oil companies that heavily support his campaign and projects, are profiting from this inflation, because they make more money when prices are higher. See Groundwork Collaborative's analysis of excess oil profits from the Iran war: Groundwork Collaborative on Oil. Even if the Iran war does fully end this week, experts say that prices will definitely remain higher through summer, and probably longer, as supply chains recover from war related disruptions. ABC News on Prices Remaining Higher. For midterm voters this fall who want lower prices, Trump and his party have been giving you the opposite of what you want, so consider other candidates with better understanding of how to improve the economy for YOU rather than oil companies.

Trumpflation Getting Worse; Trump Doesn't Care About Americans' Finances 5/12/2026 by LR

Inflation - caused by President Trump's war in Iran and tariff policies, or shall we call it Trumpflation - got worse in April 2026. Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), BLS Monthly Inflation Report, consumer prices rose at 3.8% in April from the previous year, which is the fastest rate of price growth in three years. Sadly, Trump doesn't seem to care about how these price increases are affecting ordinary Americans. According to Common Dreams and MSNow, when a reporter asked whether the pain of inflation on consumers was motivating Trump to end the Iran war, he replied, "Not even a little bit; I don't think about Americans' financial situation." Common Dreams on Inflation and Trump; MSNow on Trump's Inflation Comments.

Inflation Accelerating Due to Iran War 4/14/2026 by LR

Trump is further away than ever from his campaign promise of "lowering prices on Day 1," based on accelerating inflation in March 2026. Per the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), CNBC, and other sources, consumer prices rose at 3.3% in March from the previous year, which is the fastest rate of price growth in two years. The most important component of this "headline" or average inflation number was gasoline, where prices rose 21.2%, directly due to the Iran conflict, and caused three quarters of the inflation spike, per CNBC and the BLS. Media widely reported that gas prices at the pump increased at the fastest rate on record during March 2026, again due to Trump's war of choice in Iran. Last month, before the Iran war officially started on February 28, 2026, inflation was reported at 2.4% from the previous February, reflecting some impact from tariffs that Trump enacted in April 2025. Most economists expect that the effect of higher energy prices will ripple through the economy, also raising prices for food and other important household items, due to higher costs of distributing those products. Read More: CNBC on March 2026 Inflation. BLS March 2026 Inflation Report.

US Lost Jobs in February, and Inflation Still Above Target 3/11/2026 by LR



Based on February's economic performance, which does not reflect disruption from the new Iran war, Trump is still failing to meet his economic promises. The US shed 92,000 jobs in February, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics; CNBC noted this is the third negative jobs report in five months. CNBC on Feb Jobs. Inflation averaged 2.4% in February 2026; still above the government's target of 2%, and not yet reflecting the spike in gas prices and related costs (transportation, shipping) triggered by the Iran war. CNBC on Feb Inflation.

Job Growth Weak and Layoffs Growing 2/10/2026

While Trump campaigned on bringing jobs to Americans, based on January 2026 economic reports, he is failing on those promises. According to economists and job growth stat tracking firm ADP, the number of jobs added in January 2026 was disappointing overall, and the number of jobs in manufacturing fell; ADP employment stats. Recall that Trump specifically promised to bring manufacturing jobs back to the US. In addition, layoffs rose in January 2026, and tracking firm Challenger, Grey noted this is the worst start to a year in terms of job layoffs since the 2009 financial crisis. CNBC also noted that new job openings are the weakest seen since the 2020 pandemic. CNBC on Layoffs and Job Openings.

Not the Best Economy Ever; Trump Blames and Investigates Fed Chair 1/13/2026

Despite Trump's claims that the US economy is the strongest ever, real data suggests otherwise, but Trump continues to try spinning the facts and blaming others. See today's press release for Trump's spin: White House Says Workers Win. More objective sources such as CNBC state that inflation is still higher than desired, with average prices up 2.7% in December 2025 from a year ago. CNBC on December Inflation. Recent employment reports were also disappointing, with the slowest creation of new jobs since the pandemic. CNBC on December Employment. Most Americans seem aware that Trump is not helping the economy, contributing to negative ratings on his handling of the economy in most polls. Trump's Ratings on Economy. To fuel the economy in a way that most economists think will be unhealthy long-term, Trump continues to harangue Fed Chair Jerome Powell to lower interest rates. The Trump-loyal Department of (In)Justice has also launched investigations into Chair Powell and board member Lisa Cook, which have been widely criticized, even by Republicans, as endangering our economy and markets. Reactions to Powell Investigation.

INFLATION STILL A PROBLEM

Consumer Prices Still Rising; Halloween Candy Prices up 11% 10/28/2025

Despite Trump's promise to lower prices "on day 1" of his term, consumer prices are still rising, with no end to inflation in sight; experts think inflation will get worse into 2026 as effects of Trump's tariffs and his Big Bad Bill Act are fully felt. As CNBC reports, overall consumer prices for goods and services tracked by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) increased 3% in September 2025 from last year. CNBC notes that Trump's tariff impacts are not being fully felt yet in this inflation report, so the overall inflation rate is expected to accelerate into 2026. CNBC on Sept. Inflation. However, many prices are increasing at faster than average rates, such as Halloween candy, up 11% from last year. CNN notes that candy makers are using less cocoa

and reducing package sizes to mitigate raw material increases. CNN on Candy Prices. Even more troublesome, most experts are expecting huge increases in healthcare costs over the next several years as the effects of reducing government spending on Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the Big Bad Bill Act are felt by all healthcare consumers.

TRUMP TARIFF IMPACT

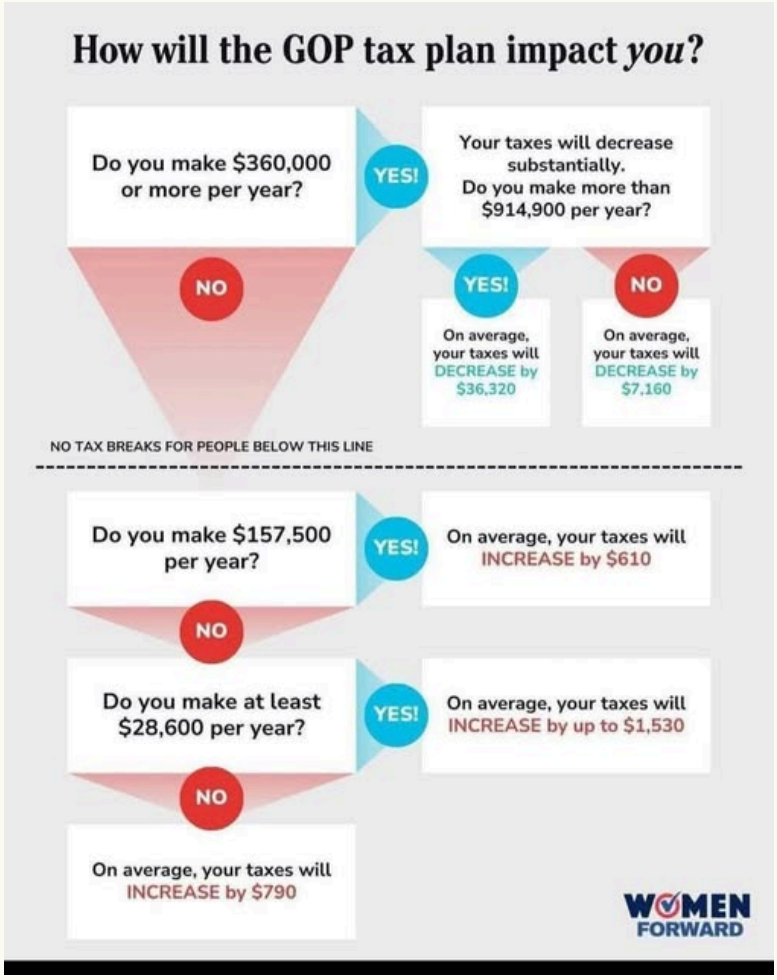
Trump Tariffs Hurting Consumer Prices and Jobs; Trump Attacks Fed and BLS About Economy 9/11/2025

Trump's tariffs are having a negative impact on American consumers by raising prices and slowing job growth, but rather than admit this, Trump is instead attacking government agencies about the economic problems his tariffs are causing. Due to the impact of Trump's tariffs, consumer prices grew faster in July than they did in June; at an average rate of 2.9%; above the Federal Reserve's (Fed's) target of inflation below 2%; read more about inflation here: Barron's Article on July Inflation. Uncertainty about tariff policy has hurt employment even more than it has impacted prices. For the last two months, job growth reports have been very disappointing; see here: Weak Job Report Released in August and Weak Job Report Released in Sept. Trump blamed the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for the weak August job reports it published, fired the BLS head, and nominated a conservative Heritage Foundation (which created Project 2025) staffer to run the BLS; see here: Trump Fires BLS Chief and Nominates Partisan Ally. Trump has also been trying to fire officials on the Federal Reserve for months, and regularly criticizing the Fed chief, whom he nominated in his first term. Note that the Fed and BLS are supposed to be independent agencies staffed by non-partisan experts, and free from political interference. Many business leaders note that Trump's attacks on the Fed and BLS might hurt the U.S. long term; see here: CEO who Voted for Trump Warns about Attacks on Fed.

Trump Tariffs Starting to Impact Consumer Prices 7/23/2025

Consumer prices increased at an average rate of 2.7% in June 2025, faster than in recent months, due to the impact of Trump's tariffs. According to economists at Morningstar, prices rose fastest for products like furniture, toys, apparel, and appliances, all made overseas and subject to tariffs. Read more from Morningstar here: Article on Tariff Impact. Consumers are starting to see price increases at major retailers. For example, Dollar Tree has many items, largely imported from China, now selling for $1.50 to $1.75 that had been selling for $1.25 since the pandemic. As evidence, see this selection of plates, with most prices increased to $1.50 as of 7/23/25: Dollar Tree Charger Plates. Coffee prices have also been increasing since Trump took office, partly due to the impact of climate change on the coffee growing season, and partly due to the impact of Trump's tariffs. Read more here: Coffee Price Article.

TRUMP BIG BAD BILL IMPACT



BOYCOTT IMPACT

Protests Working Against Tesla and Target! Updated 5/22/2025

Months of protests at Tesla dealerships and boycotts of Tesla products led the car maker to report disappointing earnings in April. Tesla profits were down over 70% worldwide in Q1 2025. To help his car business, Elon Musk announced he will be spending more time at Tesla and less time at DOGE. NPR Tesla article.

Target also announced soft sales and earnings in its Q1 2025, citing reactions to the diversity program changes as one of the negative factors. Target Q1 Conference Call

Other companies boycotted sporadically this year, including Walmart and Amazon, reported good results in their Q1 2025 this April and May. What to do? Extend the Walmart and Amazon boycotts; it took months of Tesla boycotts and protests to cause a material impact!

And add Home Depot and Koch Brothers paper products (Brawny and Sparkle paper towels, Quilted Northern and Angel Soft toilet paper, Vanity Fair napkins, Dixie cups and plates) to the boycott list for their long term support of right-leaning candidates and organizations.

TAKE ACTION

Boycotts of Amazon, Roundup, Koch Brothers paper products, and products made in El Salvador: Boycott details

Tesla Takedowns continuing; find one near you: Resistance Events VA and DMV

Ethics

TRUMP CORRUPTION



So Much Corruption; an "Unprecedented" Amount of Grift

Trump Promised to Drain the Swamp, But Instead Figuratively (and Literally, in the Reflecting Pool) Grew the Swamp, by LR 6/24/26



One of my activist roles has been to follow Trump's corruption and report on it for fellow activists, but it quickly got too big to be manageable. Because there is so much corruption, it would be a full-time job for a team of reporters to cover all the grifting, and this roundup relies heavily on others' reporting; it may be updated periodically. The main story is that **Trump has not lived up to his promise to "drain the swamp"; instead he has led what is arguably the most successful administration ever in terms of profiting off the presidency**. Trump *did* temporarily drain the swamp in the reflecting pool… before refilling it and making it swampier than ever in June 2026!

Here are some good overview pieces addressing the breadth of Trump's corruption, which experts say has increased his wealth by billions of dollars in his second term. We did note that Trump's grifting in dollar terms had already reached $2 billion by May 2025 exceeding the total amount of first term grifting in only four months; VA Grassroots Corruption Write Up, May 20, 2025. Senator Elizabeth Warren noted 100 acts of corruption in Trump's first 100 days alone; Trump Corruption First 100 Days; she did a similar report on Trump's biggest donor Elon Musk; 130 Days of Musk. More recently, host Chris Hayes addressed Trump's "unprecedented" corruption on MSNow May 13, 2026, and thereafter; Chris Hayes on Corruption 5/13/26. Historian Heather Cox Richardson called the Trump administration the "most corrupt" in history; Most Corrupt in History. Commonweal Magazine also documented immense corruption; Trump Smash & Grab, as did the American Bar Association ABA on Pay to Play, and many others. For a thorough look at benefits to specific Trump donors and supporters, watchdog Campaign Legal has a 41 page report on who gave to Trump and what they received in return in terms of government positions, pardons, contracts, favorable legislation, and other benefits. Who Gave to Trump and What They Received. For a shorter

summary, Bernie Sanders' group Our Revolution estimates the dollar amount of Trump and his family's corruption at about $4 billion; Trump & Family Corruption.

The lengthy roundup of corrupt actions below highlights the types of corruption Trump and his family, donors, and administration officials have engaged in. All of these are reasons to vote Trump-affiliated politicians out of office in 2026 and 2028, and to enact policies to prevent such corruption in the future.

Trump's Personal Money Grab - Trump 2.0 dwarfs his first term in the variety of his personal money-grabbing activities, which include cryptocurrency, stock trading, hawking merchandise, accepting huge gifts, and visiting/hosting events at Trump properties. In Trump 1.0, his monetary focus was on visiting/hosting events at his properties, per Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW); CREW on Trump 1.0 Corruption. In dollar terms, Trump 2.0's biggest money maker has been cryptocurrency. Trump has pocketed hundreds of millions of dollars in transaction fees, and cashed out coins at opportune moments, while investors in the **$TRUMP meme coin** have lost up to 97% of their money as of 6/22/26; Official $TRUMP Price Tracker. The US Senate has launched an inquiry into the **Trump USD1 stablecoin** and a completely unnecessary $2 billion transaction with the UAE; Senate Stablecoin Inquiry. The Brennan Center has a good summary of Trump's **shockingly frequent and flagrant stock trading**, such as buying Boeing shares right before his trip to China with Boeing (and other companies), and China's subsequent order of 200 Boeing jets, plus thousands of other incidents of stock manipulation; Brennan Center on Trump Stock Trading. Forbes magazine called Trump an "Exceptionally Active Stock Trader." As he has for years, Trump continues to **hawk merch and services**, such as the Trump bible, sneakers, and cell phones; customers are reportedly still waiting for their Trump cellphones after paying $100 deposits last year; Trump Mobile Issues. In addition, Trump **accepts lavish gifts**, the biggest of which was a $400 million plane from Qatar $400 Mil Gift from Qatar; it was retrofitted at taxpayer expense and is intended to be transferred from the US Air Force to Trump when he leaves office. Trump **visits his properties at taxpayer expense** in 2.0 even more often than he did in 1.0, and hosts more events there, per CREW; CREW Says More $ from Trump Properities in 2.0.

Trump's Slush Funds - Trump has used various projects and organizations as a way of commingling donor and government funds, and shielding the use of funds from public view; a common definition of this is a "slush fund." For example, consider **Freedom 250**, an organization Trump created to host US 250th birthday celebrations; there was already a congressionally funded organization America 250 to run the celebrations before Trump took office in 2025. Freedom 250 took about $100 million in funding from America 250, and supplemented it with corporate sponsorships, with no public reporting of where the money has gone; Freedom 250 Issues. Freedom 250 has hosted events for Trump, but not necessarily for Americans, such as the June 14, 2026 UFC fight that destroyed the White House lawn. Trump-supporting company Paramount also made money by selling TV viewership of the fight, and Trump attempted to profit by purchasing UFC stock before the fight was publicly announced.

The same lack of accountability and focus on Trump's desires is true with other Trump-created organizations and projects, including the **White House Ballroom**, which Trump said would not cost taxpayers a dime. Instead, Trump has diverted taxpayer funds Taxpayers Funding Ballroom while also collecting private donations; Corporate Donors for Ballroom. Trump also requested $10 billion in federal funding, diverted from the State Dept's other uses, for his **Board of Peace**, which requires a $1 billion payment from each participating country for a permanent seat. Some funds are reportedly kept in a JP Morgan Chase account, but Congress has blocked the State Dept. funding as Congress Questions Board of Peace. There are also concerns about funding for Trump's **Presidential Library** Trump Library Donor Issues, and a lawsuit over the land gifted for the library because plans revealed that Trump is trying to turn a traditional non-profit operation into something that will generate income for him, with a hotel, conference center, etc.; Lawsuit About Library Land Gift. Trump is also reportedly still trying to find a way to enact his $1.776 billion **"Weaponization" Fund**, based on a bogus legal "settlement" between plaintiff Trump and defendant the US, run by Trump. Courts declared this settlement and fund illegal, but reportedly Trump is still trying to find a way to make it happen, so the DOJ will not promise that the fund is dead; Weaponization Fund Dead?

Trump Family Corruption - Not to be left out of the game, Trump's family members have also used their positions to make money. Sons Don Jr. and Eric led the family's foray into cryptocurrency, founding a firm and establishing relationships with the crypto industry and foreign leaders who would support their business plans, while also advocating for lenient regulations on the crypto industry. For details, see the House Judiciary committee's press release and full report; House Report on Trump Family Crypto. DOD has awarded government contracts to Trump's sons, who have no experience with defense but have invested in drone makers, DOD Contracts for Trump's Sons. Don Jr. and Eric have also been given board seats on companies that want to do business with the government. Son-in-law Jared Kushner's investment firm has sought money from Gulf state sovereign wealth funds, which likely hurt his effectiveness as a US envoy negotiating with Iran in 2026. Kushner Mixing Business and "Diplomacy". Melania created her own cryptocurrency meme coin, and let Amazon film her in the run up to the Trump 2.0 inauguration for the Melania documentary, pocketing a reported $28 million for a few weeks work; Melania Documentary.

Rewards to Trump's Donors and Supporters - The Trump administration has awarded many new government contracts, regulation changes, and complaint dismissals to major supporters such as Elon Musk. For example, the SEC bent investor protection rules for Musk's recent SpaceX stock offering; Concerns About SpaceX IPO. The U.S. government has been generous with contracts to Musk's companies; Musk Government Contracts, and dropped investigations; Musk Investigations Go Away. One smaller example in the news is that a Trump donor got the no-bid contract for the failed renovation to the Reflecting Pool, Trump Donor Gets Reflecting Pool Contract; Trump bragged on social media about how great his "pool guy" was. According to Bernie Sanders' Our Revolution, the industries most supportive of Trump, including big oil, private prisons, cryptocurrency, and technology/artificial intelligence have seen huge (like 60x to 80x) returns on their investments in Trump's election and vanity projects. Read more here about Crypto Industry Grift, Big Tech AI Grift, Big Oil Grift, and Private Prisons.

Real Estate Deals to Trump Organization and Kushner Cos. - In Trump 1.0, the Trump Organization avoided new **foreign real estate deals**, but it has embraced them in Trump 2.0, signing deals with foreign governments and sovereign wealth funds to build Trump-branded properties in Romania, Serbia, Qatar, and other countries. Popular Information notes that in "normal" times these actions would be considered scandalous and receive more media attention; Trump Org Recent Foreign Deals. Kushner Cos. have also struck real estate development deals abroad, including a building in Albania that has sparked widespread protest Anti Kushner Protests in Albania.

Pardons and Sentencing Breaks to Trump Supporters - Trump's use of pardon power and sentencing intervention has eclipsed that of past presidents, and is focused on rewarding those who have helped him. A full review of Trump's pardon record can be found here: DOJ List of Trump Pardons. The highlights include pardons to all 1,200+ J6 insurrection defendants, to the crypto fraudster whose firm partnered with the Trumps on their stablecoin Facts on Crypto Pardon, and to a fraudster whose mother attended a $1 million a seat Trump fundraiser Trump pardons donor's son. In addition, while she has not been pardoned yet, convicted sex offender and Epstein co-conspirator Ghislane Maxwell received preferential treatment after cooperating with Trump's personal lawyer; Politico Story on Maxwell Transfer.

Self-Dealing of Trump's Cabinet Members and Political Appointees - Self-dealing is common among Trump's cabinet members and other appointed officials. For example, Pro Publica reported that numerous DOD contracts have been awarded to firms associated with the Deputy Defense Secretary, and it noted a "web of financial ties between senior government officials and the industries they help regulate"; see Propublica Report and Database of Corruption. This includes a searchable database of 1200 USG officials. See other articles about Trump administration corruption below;
Exposing President Trump's Pay-to-Play Administration, Trump Allies Kids Cash In, Commerce Secretary Cashes in on Crypto, Bondi's Old Clients Get Preferential Treatment from DOJ, Argentina Bailout Benefits Hedge Fund.

Insider Trading on Trump's Public Announcements - Trump is not the only official profiting from his public announcements, which have had major impacts on a variety of markets, from oil futures to stock futures to prediction markets. There are several investigations pending to determine who made highly profitable trades in various markets minutes before Trump's major announcements regarding tariffs and the Iran war. See more here; Oil Futures Iran War, Stock Futures Iran War, Prediction Markets Iran War. Who could it be? There are so many potential suspects across the family and administration!

ProPublica Highlights Corruption Throughout Trump Administration

3/11/26, by LR

ProPublica is releasing extensive research highlighting potential financial corruption by members of the Trump administration, including and beyond the president himself. It notes

that, “The documents reveal a web of financial ties between senior government officials and the industries they help regulate — relationships that have drawn scrutiny as Trump has dismantled ethics safeguards designed to prevent conflicts of interest….Conflicts of interest have long plagued both Democratic and Republican administrations. But ethics experts say Trump’s second term marks a sharp break from modern norms.” Read the full article here: ProPublica Corruption Research. Use the online tool to search the financial disclosure records of 1500 officials: Trump Officials Records Search.

Trump Family and Donors Increased their Wealth Since Taking Office

2/3/26, by LR

While Trump campaigned on “draining the swamp,” he appears instead to have vastly increased the wealth of swamp dwellers, including his family and the “oligarch” owned big businesses who financed his campaigns and vanity projects, such as the White House Ballroom. Per newly released research by Our Revolution, a Bernie Sanders affiliated group, the Trump family’s wealth has increased from $2.3 to $6.7 billion since taking office, as Trump exploits the presidency for cryptocurrency sales, organizes foreign policy around business deals, and the like. Read more here: Trump Family Grift. Several of the industries most supportive of Trump, including big oil, private prisons, cryptocurrency, and technology/artificial intelligence have seen huge (like 60x to 80x) returns on their investments in Trump’s election and vanity projects. Read more here about Crypto Industry Grift, Big Tech AI Grift, Big Oil Grift, Private Prisons. Also read here to understand how Trump’s tech backers have come to control more media entities which now pander to Trump. Media Catering to Trump. If this bothers you, and you want to exercise your consumer power against Trump enabling businesses, click here to read more: Boycotts and Conscious Consumption

Trump PAC and Ballroom Donors Pay for Pardons, Contracts, Policies, etc. 1/13/26, by LR

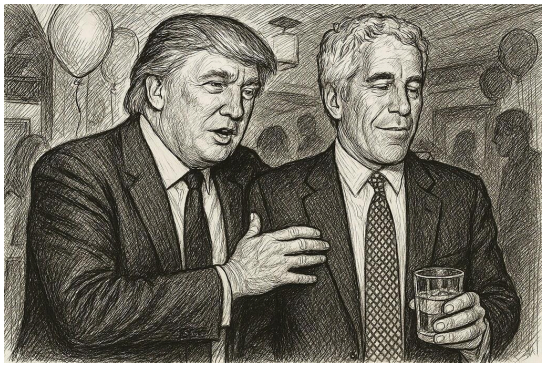
Trump donors have received numerous favors as the payoff for their financial support to his election, inauguration, and ballroom. NBC News just reported that new donors of $1 million plus each to the Trump PAC MAGA Inc. after Trump’s election included leaders of companies receiving preferential policy treatment, such as Open AI (Trump is against federal or state level regulation of AI), or lucrative government contracts, such as Palantir. MAGA Inc. donors also included families of those receiving dubious presidential pardons, sports team owners, and the In-N-Out Burger owner. Read more here: NBC Story MAGA Inc Donors. Donors to the ballroom and inauguration also include leaders of companies from industries Trump supports personally and with policies, including cryptocurrency (see below for numerous stories about Trump’s corrupt foray into cryptocurrency ownership, and note that Coinbase, Ripple, Tether, and the Winklevoss twins are ballroom donors, and that Trump pardoned a cryptocurrency executive convicted of fraud and money laundering). Read more about the crypto pardon here: Facts on Crypto Pardon. Ballroom donors are also seeking government contracts (Amazon Web Services, Booz Allen, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft, and Palantir), and are in the technology

industry, which has turned MAGA for either philosophical or business reasons (Apple, HP, Meta, Micron Technology). Read more about ballroom donors here: NBC News Ballroom Donors.

Of Course, Trump's Officials are Corrupt, Too 10/21/25

Corruption is rampant throughout the Trump administration, with cabinet members and other high level officials using public funds to benefit themselves and their friends instead of ordinary U.S. citizens, and the Trump administration defending the moves. For example, it has been widely reported that "border czar" Tom Holman was caught on video accepting a bribe of $50,000 last fall from an undercover FBI agent in exchange for purported access to Trump administration contracts. DOJ was investigating the case under the Biden administration, but the Trump administration dropped the case. Officials such as JD Vance have gone to great lengths to defend Holman, including on ABC News; ABC Sunday News Vance Defends Holman. In addition, it has been widely reported that the "America First" Trump administration recently gave Argentina a $20 billion financial bailout. Argentina is not a staunch ally, the US economy is not dependent on Argentina, and the administration has been cutting billions in federal spending. So exactly why would we give Argentina $20 billion? Because, according to Popular Information and other sources, a good hedge fund buddy of Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent made a poor investment in Argentinian bonds, and would have lost money without this bailout. Argentina Bailout Benefits Hedge Fund. See other articles about Trump administration corruption below.

Exposing President Trump's Pay-to-Play Administration, Trump Allies Kids Cash In, Commerce Secretary Cashes in on Crypto, Bondi's Old Clients Get Preferential Treatment from DOJ.



Trump Handling Epstein Files Like a Guilty Man 8/26/25

Trump and his two personal defense attorneys and DOJ leaders, Pam Bondi and Todd Blanche, continue to obscure and distort information related to Trump's good friend and sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein, while nearly 90% of Americans think the government should be transparent and release everything it knows about the case. CBS Poll Epstein Files Release. Instead, Bondi's continued withholding of information looks guilty and corrupt, as does Blanche's biased handling of Epstein co-conspirator Ghislaine Maxwell. Information just released to Congress from Bondi was largely old; reports are that only 3% of the information released was actually new to the public. CNN Story Epstein Info Released was Old News. After the highly unusual move of having Blanche meet with convicted sex offender Maxwell in prison, she was transferred to a "country club" prison that has never been an option for other sex offenders before Maxwell. Politico Story on Maxwell Transfer. Intending to reduce suspicion about Trump's involvement with Epstein, Bondi released a transcript of the Blanche Maxwell interview, which included

statements by Maxwell that strain credibility, such as that Trump "was a gentleman in all respects," and also contradict witness testimony in the case. PBS Summary and Link to Blanche Maxwell Transcript. Even Trump voters would probably not say he is a "gentleman in all respects," given that part of what they like about Trump is his lack of traditional decorum!

"Trump Spending $10 Million Of Taxpayer Money To Promote His Scotland Golf Course" 7/30/25

Per Huffington Post, "The five-day trip will also raise his second-term golf tab to $52 million in just six months. He spent $152 million during his first term." Trump opened a new golf club bearing his name in Scotland on this taxpayer funded trip. Read the full article here: Huff Post Article on Trump's golf outings Several observers also noted Trump cheated while playing golf: Independent Roasts Trump for Cheating in Golf Game.

Trump Organization Accelerates Foreign Real Estate Deals 7/21/25

With so much Trump administration chaos to report on, the Trump Organization's acceleration of foreign real estate deals is going largely unnoticed and unreported by the media. However, Popular Information notes that while the Trump Organization avoided striking foreign deals during Trump's first term to avoid the appearance of impropriety, it has struck numerous deals to develop real estate in Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Qatar in Trump 2.0. In normal times, these deals would be subject to scrutiny by the media and other politicians. In Trump 2.0, it seems that the potential these deals create for corruption is being ignored.

Read more from Popular Information: Trump 2.0 Foreign Real Estate Deals Article
Read about the Romanian deal on the Trump Organization website: Press Release - Trumps in Romania.



Trump Has Made $1.2 Billion From Crypto (So Far); Some Dems Asking Questions; More Profits from Presidency than Ever 7/21/25

Per Forbes magazine, Trump has made at least $1.2 billion dollars from several new cryptocurrency businesses. Ethics watchers have questioned several of Trump's moves with cryptocurrency, such as offering the largest holders of the $TRUMP "meme" coin access to the president at events in May. Dems on the Senate Banking Committee are asking crypto businesses to explain why a UAE based company, owned by the UAE's president, chose to make a $2 billion transaction using Trump's newly launched USD1 stablecoin, versus many other payment options with longer term track records, but not owned by Trump. The Associated Press notes that Trump is leveraging the presidency for profit far more than any president has in

history, selling everything from bibles to cryptocurrency. The bulk of Trump's profits are coming from cryptocurrency.

Read the entire Forbes article here: Trump has made $1.2 billion from crypto.
Read the Senate Banking Committee letter here: Dem Letter to Crypto Businesses.
Associated Press article: Trump Leveraging Presidency for Profits More than Ever

Congress is Also More "Pro Crypto" Due to Lobbying Influence 7/23/25

It's not just Trump; Congress is also more pro-crypto than it has been in recent years, because the crypto industry has been supporting both Republican and Democratic candidates, and lobbying heavily. Per Politico, crypto spending helped unseat less friendly Senators like Sherrod Brown in Ohio in 2024. And per Sludge, record lobbying spending in 2025 has helped push forward several crypto industry bills. Read Politico's article here: Politico article on crypto industry influence



(Un)Truth Social is DJT's Self-Serving Platform 6/16/25

Does it seem fishy that Donald Trump owns the vast majority of stock (over $2 billion worth, according to Axios) in a social media platform that he posts on an average of 17 times and a high of 138 times per day, for everything from policy announcements to conspiracy theories? Trump's heavy use of social media is self-serving both in terms of vanity and profiting off the presidency. Per the Washington Post, in the first 132 days of his second presidency, Trump (with his social media team) posted 2,262 times on Truth Social (which might more accurately be called UnTruth Social). This was over 3x the rate of his Twitter postings during the start of his first term, per the Post; recall that Trump was considered a heavy social media user in his first term, and that Trump created (Un)Truth Social after the insurrection, when he was banned from Twitter. Also note that Trump rarely posts on X (formerly Twitter) or other social media platforms any longer; he relies on other users to convey what he said on (Un)Truth Social to other websites.

While some might call this use of social media a smart way of keeping the public informed, it also raises ethics concerns, given that Trump's posts drive much of the user base and traffic on (Un)Truth Social. And in social media, company value is a function of the number of users and the frequency with which they post and traffic on the platform, which drives advertising sales. Thus every post that Trump and his team make on (Un)Truth social adds a little bit of value to

Trump's ownership. Exactly how much? We tried to calculate the value of each (Un)Truth social post, but it is impossible, because Trump Media and Technology, the parent company of (Un)Truth Social, does not disclose the typical metrics that other social media companies provide. It did disclose that in 2024, it generated a surprisingly tiny $3.6 million in advertising sales overall, and it spent almost $190 million to run and develop the business, meaning it lost a shocking $186 million from operations during 2024. No wonder Trump is trying 3x harder to drive traffic to (Un)Truth Social now than he did to drive traffic to Twitter in his first term; the company he owns needs the advertising sales! Again, we state that Trump's heavy use of social media is self-serving both in terms of vanity and profiting off the presidency. So are Trump Media's recent launches of cell phones and services, and of a cryptocurrency investment fund. Read more below.

Read about the value of Trump's (Un)Truth Social stake: Axios article on (Un)Truth Social.
Read the Washington Post's analysis of (Un)Truth Social (sorry, there is a paywall for non-subscribers, but it's a great article if you subscribe): WaPo Truth Social Analysis.
Read Trump Media and Technology's Financial Filing for 2024: Trump Media 10K Filing.
Read about Trump Media's launch of cell phone service and bitcoin fund: Trump Launches Cell Phone Service and Trump Media Launching Cryptocurrency Fund.



ABC News Highlights Trump Corruption 6/1/2025

This Week with George Stephanopolis summarized Trump's corrupt business dealings, donations, pardons and regulatory actions in its 6/1/2025 program. Watch here, Trump Corruption ABC video or read the transcript here: Trump Corruption ABC transcript.

"Looks like Corruption, Smells like Corruption" –Elizabeth Warren

Trump Pardons MAGA Sympathizing Fraudsters 5/28/2025

Trump continued his series of controversial pardons with several more clemency grants of MAGA supporters, convicted of fraud and/or public corruption. A full review of Trump's pardon record, including all the January 6 participants, and a long list of people convicted for various frauds, can be found here: DOJ List of Trump Pardons.

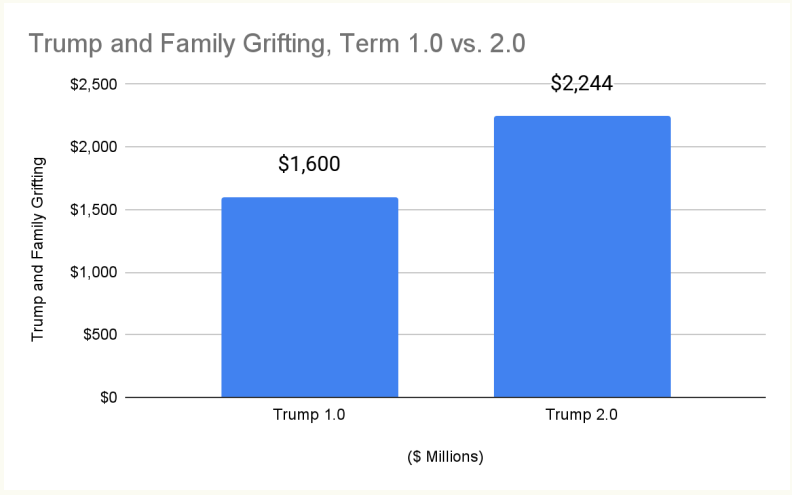
Most recent pardons included the son, convicted of tax fraud, of a donor who attended a $1 million a plate Mar-a-Lago fundraiser: Trump pardons donor's son. The son reportedly put in his pardon application that his mother was a Trump donor. It also included a MAGA oriented Culpeper, VA sheriff convicted of bribery and fraud, highlighting the administration's lenient stance on public corruption: Trump pardons sheriff convicted of bribery. And it included a MAGA supporting Las Vegas city councilor convicted of wire fraud for misusing donated money. Finally, Trump just pardoned a reality star couple convicted of bank fraud and tax evasion; their daughter was a speaker at last summer's Republican Convention: Trump pardons reality star fraudsters. The moral of the story here is clear: support Trump and your financial frauds will be forgiven.



Protest at Trump's Crypto Gala Dinner. Thurs, May 22
"America is not for sale" was chanted at these billionaire guests buying access to Trump.



Trump Second Term “Grifting” Already Outpacing First Term due to “Meme Coin” 5/20/2025



Concerned about Donald Trump and his family using the presidency to enrich themselves? If not, perhaps you should be, because our analysis shows that, four months into his second term, Trump and family have already “grifted” more money than they made during his whole first term. As depicted in the USA Today style graphic above, we estimate that the Trumps have already pocketed over $2.2 billion four months into his second term, versus the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington’s estimate of $1.6 billion for Trump’s entire first term. The bulk of this $2.2 billion (about $1.8 billion) comes from their shares of the “meme coins” that Donald and Melania launched shortly before the inauguration, and arguably hyped by offering a special dinner and White House tour to the top holders of the “meme coins.” Bidding to attend these events increased the value of the $Trump coin by about 44%, per CBS News. And the Trump Organization owns about 80% of the $Trump coin. But $40 million also came from a deal with Amazon to produce a documentary or series about Melania Trump, and $400 million is for the widely publicized gift of a luxury jet from Qatar to Trump. Ethics watchers are

obviously concerned about Trump using the White House to promote his meme coin, and the ability of meme coin buyers to influence Trump and his policies, among many other issues related to Trump's creation of his own cryptocurrency and oversight of cryptocurrency regulators.

Read about the Donald and Melania Trump "Meme Coins" here. CBS News article on Trump "meme" coin contest and here Guardian article on Trump meme conflicts.

Read about Melania's deal with Amazon here: Rolling Stone article on Melania's Amazon deal.

TAKE ACTION

Action: contact your congresspeople to discourage their support of

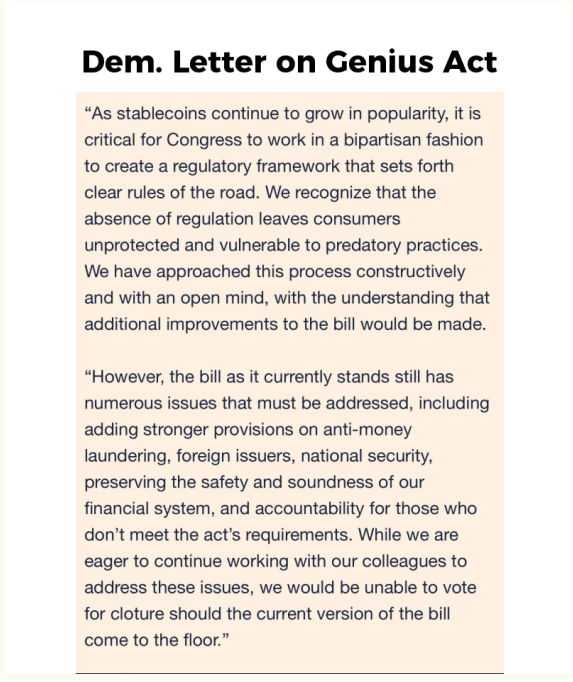
Two GOP bills before Congress that would 'green-light the grift' – make it easy for the Trump Family to profit massively from their crypto coin business.

"Looks like Corruption, Smells like Corruption"

➜Hear more [Elizabeth Warren]

➜Read Key Issues in Stablecoin Legislation [Congress.gov]

➜Read How the Trump Family is poised to profit… [Fortune.com]

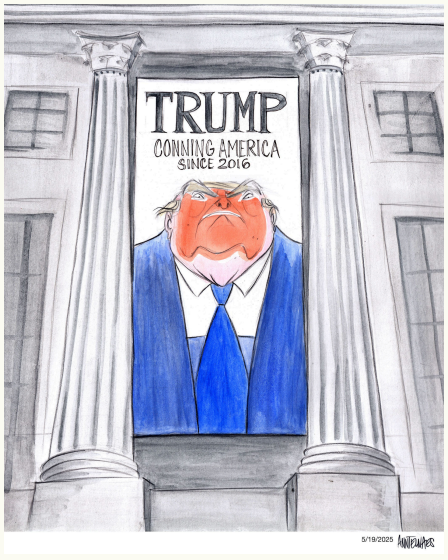




Corruption in the first 100 days

Watch Sen. Chris Murphy's lists 40 of Trump's corrupt acts in 2025.
Watch video [YouTube]

"It is corruption and self-dealing on a scale that we've never seen in American history. And this really puts this administration in a completely different league." –Anne Applebaum, The Atlantic, May 7, 2025



By ANN TELNAES, May 2025