He Promised Cheap Gas and No New Wars. Voters Sent the Bill.

Democrats upset Republicans across the board, and Donald Trump has nobody to blame but himself.

November 4, 2026. Results are projections from the news organizations named, and a few races are still being counted.

Donald Trump has spent two years telling Americans that what they see at the pump and the register isn't real. On Tuesday, they answered him.

Democrats took all of Congress. They won the House, and NBC News estimated they'd land around 252 seats, far past the 218 needed. They won the Senate too, with the AP calling it late Tuesday. Republicans walked in with a 53-47 Senate majority. At last count Democrats had 54 seats, after flipping North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Ohio, Kansas, Iowa and Maine, where Susan Collins finally lost. They flipped governor's mansions in Texas, Georgia, Ohio and Iowa, and NBC reports they clinched a majority of governorships for the first time in 16 years.

Read that list again. Texas. Iowa. South Carolina. Kansas.

Trump won Texas by nearly 14 points two years ago. On Tuesday James Talarico beat Ken Paxton there, and Gina Hinojosa took out Greg Abbott, who was seeking a fourth term. Republicans still won where you'd expect, including Arkansas and Florida, and a few races are still being counted. But when the Republican firewall needs Arkansas to look good, the firewall is on fire.

This was no mystery. Trump went against the people who elected him, and they noticed.

He Promised Relief. You Got $4 Gas.

In early January, the AAA national average was $2.81, the lowest in years. Today it's $4.12. On this same date last year it was about $3.05. That's $1.07 more per gallon, a 35% increase, or roughly $16 extra every time you fill a 15-gallon tank.

September was worse. The average hit $4.48 on September 24, the highest ever for that time of year, and the month averaged $4.33, a full 50 cents above the old September record. The government's own numbers show gasoline up 34.2% in the 12 months through September, fuel oil up 74.2% and airfares up 22.4%. Overall inflation climbed to 3.7%, up from 2.4% in February.

Yes, gas has dipped in recent weeks. It's a dip from a record, with crude still above $100 a barrel as of last week.

And Trump's closing message on Election Day? He declared inflation "solved". Voters disagreed: 87% told exit pollsters they were concerned about gas prices, and 59% were very concerned.

Your Grocery Bill Didn’t Get the Memo

Republicans will wave one number around, so let’s deal with it. Grocery prices rose 1.8% over the 12 months through September and dipped 0.1% that month. Eggs are down 20.6%. Fine. Take the win on eggs.

Now look at the rest of the cart. Ground beef is up 5.4%. Coffee is up 7.1%. Fish and seafood are up 6.9%. Fruits and vegetables are up 3.7%. And rising more slowly isn’t the same as coming down. Grocery prices are running about 32% above 2019 levels, according to an analysis of federal data. Nobody is walking out of Kroger feeling like the crisis ended because the price of hamburger is climbing a little slower.

Trump returned to office promising prosperity and peace. Instead, 75% of Americans said he wasn’t handling inflation well in an August UMass poll, and four in five said the Iran war raised the cost of food and gas. On Tuesday, 65% of voters told exit pollsters his policies have made the economy worse.

Millions Lost Their Coverage While He Bragged

The enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits expired on December 31, 2025, on Republicans’ watch. KFF found that average costs for enrollees who kept their plans jumped 114%.

Then the bills came due. Marketplace enrollment fell by 2.6 million between February 2025 and February 2026. KFF projects the drop could reach nearly 5 million this year. Combined Medicaid and ACA enrollment fell by about 5.1 million over a year, though part of that came from post-pandemic eligibility reviews. Federal officials also credit a crackdown on improper signups, but experts who track enrollment point to affordability as the main driver. Some of those people found coverage elsewhere, and the data doesn’t yet show how many.

Here’s who else was watching: Ohio saw the largest enrollment drop, according to the Ohio Capital Journal, on top of the Medicaid cuts in Trump’s own bill. On Tuesday, Ohio threw out its Republican senator and rejected the Republican candidate for governor. Funny how that works.

“No New Wars”

This was the promise that hurt the most, because people believed it. Trump ran on no new wars and a focus at home. On February 28, the United States and Israel attacked Iran. By mid-March, at least 13 American service members were dead and more than 200 were wounded.

On Tuesday, 62% of voters said he made the wrong call in starting that war, and 74% said it was a crucial or major factor in their vote.

Many Americans, including people inside MAGA, believe Trump put Israel’s priorities ahead of the American people. That belief didn’t come from nowhere. Joe Kent, Trump’s own counterterrorism chief and a Green Beret who lost his wife in Syria, resigned in protest. He wrote that the war started because of “pressure from Israel and its powerful American lobby”.

That claim is contested. Netanyahu denied dragging America in, and Rep. Don Bacon accused Kent of fueling antisemitism. Argue about it all you want. But here's the part no one can argue with: one man gave the order, and his name is Donald Trump. Whether he was talked into it or walked in on his own, Americans are the ones paying for it at the pump.

Then, on Election Day, with voting already underway, Trump finally went on Fox News and said he was pulling the money. "By the end of this year, we won't be paying Israel," he said, calling the aid a "bad talking point" for Republicans.

Too little, too late. And read the fine print. He also said, "We'll help Israel if they need it," and called Israel a "great ally." The current aid agreement runs through September 2028, and the Times of Israel reported that his claim "appears to almost certainly be false." Even Marjorie Taylor Greene saw through it: "Amazing how being on the verge of Republicans getting wiped out in the midterms changes hearts and minds."

A lot of Americans feel he chose Israel and its war against Iran over the United States. Donald Trump campaigned on no new wars and on bringing the focus back to the American people. That was not done, and Republicans saw it.

He Black-Pilled His Own People

The diehards are still there. Trump has 93% approval among MAGA Republicans. But diehards alone don't hold Texas.

Look at everyone else. Reuters/Ipsos had Republican approval of Trump falling from 86% in January to 73% this fall, and Republican approval on the cost of living dropping 26 points to 44%. UMass found one in six Trump voters wouldn't vote for him again. NBC found that a third of Trump voters say he has fallen short, and his net approval among white voters without college degrees is down 18 points from early in his term. One Republican strategist warned that the war and gas prices were sapping enthusiasm on the right.

It will take more data to know exactly who stayed home. But the warning signs were flashing for months, and independents were already favoring Democrats by 21 points before Election Day. An AP analysis counted 59.7 million ballots cast before Election Day, compared with a little over 58 million in 2022. The people Trump told to shut up and trust him got tired of it, and Democrats showed up. One Republican strategist in a competitive race called the results a "total and utter rejection of Donald Trump." That's his own side talking.

So is Eric Deters, a MAGA donor and former Republican candidate for Kentucky governor. "Blood bath," he wrote. "Complete repudiation of Trump. War and fuel prices. Sad. He destroyed in 8 months all that was built. Political suicide."

Ohio Saw Right Through Vivek

Vivek Ramaswamy wanted Ohio's top job. Ohio said no.

The AP called the race for Dr. Amy Acton, who becomes the first woman ever elected governor of Ohio and its first Democratic governor in 20 years, despite more than $100 million spent against her. The unofficial count, with most precincts in, had her around 51% to 46%, and Sherrod Brown was beating Jon Husted about 49% to 47%.

Neither candidate had held elected office. The difference is what they'd done with their time. Acton ran Ohio's health department during the worst early days of the pandemic, on TV in front of the whole state. Ramaswamy's fame came from a presidential run and a short stint at DOGE. He claims Ohio, but he has never done a single thing for Ohio, and Ohioans knew it.

Then he spent $4 million on an ad featuring Acton's estranged mother calling her a liar. Even Gov. Mike DeWine, who endorsed him, wanted it pulled. If that's how you ask to lead a state, you deserve the answer you got.

Enough

Enough with the mean tweets. Enough with calling people morons at prayer breakfasts. Enough with treating every Republican who reads a bill or asks a question like a traitor. Enough with public thrashings of anyone who dares to disagree with Donald Trump.

The presidency is the highest office in this country. It should come with some integrity, some restraint and at least a passing interest in the people paying the bills. Trump told the New York Times he's "absolutely willing" to accept the results. Then he went on Truth Social and wrote, "I wasn't on the Ballot and if I was, we would have won IN A LANDSLIDE!" He was on every ballot in America. He was on every gas pump too. Now he can accept what the results mean.

And Democrats, don't get comfortable. Nobody voted for you on Tuesday because they fell in love. They voted because gas is over $4, groceries still hurt, their insurance doubled and their president started a war he swore he wouldn't. Fix it, or you're next.

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