9 Ways

DONALD TRUMP'S CORRUPTION IS COSTING YOU



Introduction

President Donald Trump promised to lower costs for Americans "on day one" of his presidency.[1] It's over 645 days in and families are paying more for everything - from gas to groceries to housing to their utility bills. At the same time, Trump has made a cash grab of the Presidency, adding a reported $2.7 billion to his net worth since the 2024 election by rewarding himself, his family, and the wealthy and well-connected.[2] Meanwhile, average real wages are flat since December 2024, and have fallen 1.2 percent in 2026 alone.[3] It's clear Trump's corruption hasn't just lined the pockets of the Trump family and their donor buddies, it has directly led to Americans paying more out of their pockets. This is the most corrupt Presidency in history – and American families are footing the bill.

The Minority Staff of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs released the "Trumpflation Tracker," which found families are paying $3,772 more because of inflation under Trump.[4] The Committee released reports highlighting how the Administration's failed economic agenda and policy rollbacks have driven up costs for American families.[5] One analysis found that Americans have paid more than $86 billion each year in "Trump Fees" because of the President's actions like rolling back federal rules, abandoning enforcement actions, eliminating key tax credits, and slashing programs across the government.[6]

This new report documents 9 of the ways Donald Trump's corruption is costing American families. It finds that corporations and allies that donated to the President's inauguration, ballroom, or political committees, hired his allies as lobbyists, or gave him lavish gifts went on to win favorable treatment from his Administration, while families pay the price.

The Minority Staff of the Banking Committee summarize a non-exhaustive list of Trump's corruption across consumer protection, antitrust, energy, health, trade, and taxes. Again and again, enforcement actions were dropped, mergers were waved through, tariffs were lifted, and pardons were granted after money or favors changed hands. The cost to Americans: billions in lost refunds, higher prices, and weaker protections.

1.

LETTING BIG BANKS AND CORPORATIONS OFF THE HOOK WHILE AMERICAN CONSUMERS LOSE BILLIONS

Capital One: Capital One made a $1 million donation to the President's inauguration,[7] and the Trump Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) subsequently dismissed[8] its lawsuit alleging that Capital One deprived customers of $2 billion[9] in interest payments in certain savings accounts.

Trump's conflict: $1 million inaugural contribution.[10]

What it means for Americans: Consumers who lost out on up to $2 billion in interest payments no longer have the opportunity to potentially recoup those costs. Private litigation later produced a $425 million settlement fund, though the CFPB's estimate of losses was substantially higher.[11]

Toyota: Toyota made a $1 million contribution to the President's inauguration,[12] and the Trump CFPB subsequently terminated[13] its consent order against Toyota Motor Credit and reversed its requirement that Toyota refund a total of $48 million to consumers who were tricked into buying add-on insurance and warranties that they did not need.[14]

Trump's conflict: $1 million inaugural contribution.[15]

What it means for Americans: Scammed Toyota Motor Credit customers will no longer be refunded $48 million.[16]

Zelle: JPMorgan Chase and Bank of America made contributions of more than $1 million and $500,000, respectively, to the President's inauguration,[17] and the Trump CFPB subsequently dropped its case against Zelle bank owners JPMorgan, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo alleging failures to protect Zelle customers from fraud.[18]

Trump's conflict: Over $1 million from JPMorgan and another $500,000 from Bank of America for his inauguration.[19]

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What it means for Americans: Consumers scammed on Zelle's platform lost the opportunity to recoup up to $870 million from the CFPB's case against Zelle's bank owners.[20]

Walmart: Walmart contributed $150,000 to the President's inauguration,[21] and the Trump CFPB subsequently dropped[22] its case alleging that Walmart forced delivery drivers to receive their wages in deceptive and predatory deposit accounts that charged $10 million in junk fees.[23]

Trump's conflict: $150,000 contribution to his inauguration.[24]

What it means for Americans: Walmart delivery drivers lost the opportunity to potentially receive refunds of $10 million in junk fees from the CFPB's lawsuit.[25]

Elon Musk's companies, including XMoney: Elon Musk—a major Trump donor and the primary architect of the Department of Government Efficiency ("DOGE")—spearheaded the dismantling of the CFPB, the agency responsible for overseeing XMoney,[26] Musk's digital payment system. Musk's work to destroy the agency came months after the CFPB finalized a rule expanding its supervisory authority over Larger Participants in the digital payments industry,[27] which likely would've included XMoney.

Trump's conflict: An estimated $288 million to help elect him.[28]

What it means for Americans: Our Senate Banking Committee report found that President Trump's almost two year-long assault on the CFPB cost consumers $26.5 billion, which does not include the cost to consumers of the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans blocking the CFPB from supervising certain digital payments companies like XMoney.[29]

2.

ENRICHING THE TRUMP FAMILY AND THEIR BILLIONAIRE BUDDIES WHILE PUTTING INVESTORS AND NATIONAL SECURITY AT RISK

The Trump Family Crypto Empire: Trump and his family expanded their financial interests in cryptocurrency while Trump dropped ongoing SEC enforcement actions against major crypto firms—including Coinbase, Gemini, Robinhood, Ripple, Crypto.com, Uniswap, and Kraken[30]—hosted events as President to boost his crypto profits, and appointed crypto-friendly regulators who prioritized deregulating crypto.

Trump's conflict: $1.4 billion from his two largest crypto ventures alone: $636 million in Trump memecoin profits and nearly $800 million from World Liberty Financial token and equity sales.[31]

What it means for Americans: Roughly one million investors lost $3.81 billion on just the Trump memecoin—among the President and his family's many shady crypto ventures—as it fell sharply from its peak.[32] Dropped enforcement actions also demonstrated the Administration's hands-off approach to regulating the industry, which increases investors' exposure to fraud and scams.

Trump Media and Technology Group: Trump Media & Technology Group is monetizing the President's social media posts by selling early access to financial firms. The feeds offered by Trump Media are reportedly priced at up to $100,000 per month.[33] Now trading firms can make money faster than everyone else as the President posts market-moving information on the economy and geopolitics.

Trump's conflict: A new revenue stream for Trump Media, in which Trump retains a major financial interest, and an inside track for himself to move the market since he trades millions in stock per month.

What it means for Americans: Wall Street and financial firms are getting informational advantages over all other investors who lack access to expensive proprietary feeds. It means the big financial firms will get better prices and more profits while everyone else is stuck behind a paywall.

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United Arab Emirates and Trump Family's World Liberty Financial: A UAE royal-backed entity agreed to buy a 49% stake in World Liberty Financial (WLF) for approximately $500 million. The administration subsequently expanded UAE's access to advanced American AI chips and loosened certain export-control restrictions.[34]

Trump's conflict:

- **$500 million investment in WLF from entities backed by the UAE's National Security Advisor.[35]**
- **Abu Dhabi-backed investment firm used WLF's stablecoin, USD1, for $2 billion investment in Binance—an exchange founded by Changpeng Zhao, who pleaded guilty to charges of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program[36] — netting the Trump family enormous profits, since they receive 75% of proceeds.[37]**

What it means for Americans: Giving the UAE license-free access to AI chips and other advanced U.S. technology, increasing the risk that sensitive American technology reaches countries of concern, including China.[38]

3.

ALLOWING GIANT CORPORATIONS TO GOBBLE UP COMPETITION WHILE FAMILIES FACE HIGHER PRICES

John Deere: In July 2026, the FTC and five states settled an antitrust case accusing John Deere of restricting farmers' ability to repair equipment they own.[39] The original lawsuit alleged that Deere withheld software capabilities needed for certain electronic repairs, forcing farmers to use authorized dealers and resulting in higher repair costs and delays.[40] The July 2026 settlement requires Deere for 10 years to provide farmers and independent repair shops with repair resources equivalent to those currently available to authorized dealers.[41]

Trump's conflict: From January 2026 to May 2026, Trump purchased stock in John Deere three times.[42] The largest purchase, on March 12, was valued at $15,001–$50,000; another March 17 purchase was valued at $1,501–$15,000. John Deere was also listed as a sponsor of Freedom 250.[43]

What it means for Americans: The FTC settlement does not include disgorgement or restitution for farmers, who have overpaid billions and lost crop windows attempting to repair tractors and other farm equipment. The settlement also does not require Deere equipment to work with cheaper third-party repair tools, permits Deere to charge independent repair shops more than its own dealers so long as the price meets an ambiguous "fair and reasonable" standard, and requires Deere to provide any new repair tools to farmers only after those tools are rolled out to more than half of Deere authorized dealers—a threshold Deere could intentionally avoid reaching to deny future repair tools to farmers.

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United Airlines and JetBlue Airways Partnership: In May 2025, United Airlines and JetBlue Airways announced "Blue Sky,"[44] a sweeping commercial partnership combining inter-airline cross-booking, fully integrated frequent flyer reciprocity, and key slot transfers across heavily congested East Coast airports including JFK International Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport. This partnership is concerning in an industry where only four giants—American, Delta, Southwest, and United—control 80 percent[45] of the market. Trump's Department of Transportation (DOT) cleared it.

Trump's conflict: United Airlines donated $2.5 million to Freedom 250[46] and $1 million to Trump's inauguration.[47]

What it means for Americans: Reduced competition between airlines will likely lead[48] to higher fares and worse service for passengers. A federal judge struck down a similar partnership between JetBlue and American Airlines after the Justice Department found[49] that American and JetBlue not competing with each other in the Northeast would cost consumers more than $700 million a year.

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Paramount and Skydance: Media giants Skydance Media and Paramount Global announced an $8 billion deal to merge.[50] While the Administration was considering whether to challenge the merger for violating federal antitrust law, Paramount agreed to pay $16 million to settle a meritless lawsuit filed by Trump in his personal capacity against Paramount subsidiary CBS.[51] The settlement was announced on July 2, and on July 17 the Skydance-Paramount transaction received approval by Trump's Federal Communications Commission.[52]

Trump's conflict: $16 million[53] settlement earmarked for Trump's personal legal fees and presidential library fund, and an additional $15-20 million[54] in public service announcements on Paramount Skydance-owned networks supporting Trump-approved causes. CBS also canceled Stephen Colbert's *The Late Show*[55] after Colbert called his corporate parent's $16 million settlement bribery on air. Larry Ellison, the father of Skydance-controlling owner David Ellison, donated $45 million in support of Trump's 2024 campaign.[56]

What it means for Americans: This deal consolidated two media giants, leading to fewer options for viewers and higher prices for streaming, cable, and satellite subscriptions. Fewer media employers will also mean weaker wage bargaining power for media workers. CBS's apparent capitulation to Trump also meant Americans can no longer watch The Late Show, which was the nation's most-watched late-night show.[57]

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Paramount and Warner Brothers: Trump has proceeded to waive through the Paramount and Warner Brothers merger. If the deal goes through, it would combine two major national news organizations—CBS and CNN—as well as dozens of cable channels under the control of David Ellison, whose family has a "cozy alliance of mutual back-scratching"[58] with President Trump.

Trump's conflict: Larry Ellison, the father of Paramount-controlling owner David Ellison, donated $45 million in support of Trump's 2024 campaign.[59]

What it means for Americans: The deal "would be a tectonic shift for the media industry,"[60] with the combined entity possessing the market power to inflate streaming subscription prices,[61] lay off or suppress wages for media workers, and exert further control over American news and entertainment programming.

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Live Nation: In May 2024, the DOJ and a bipartisan coalition of dozens of states filed a landmark antitrust lawsuit to break up Live Nation Entertainment and its subsidiary Ticketmaster.[62] The lawsuit alleged that the company illegally monopolized the live entertainment industry and imposed inflated ticket prices and fees on millions of consumers. Trump's Department of Justice (DOJ) reached a settlement with Live Nation and Ticketmaster, despite the settlement being rejected as too weak by 33 states and the District of Columbia, who proceeded to trial and won.[63]

Trump's conflict: Live Nation donated $500,000 to President Trump's inauguration committee.[64] Live Nation also brought on board a network of Trump-connected lobbyists and allies, including Mike Davis,[65] Kellyanne Conway,[66] Richard Grenell,[67] and the law firm Sullivan & Cromwell.[68] Following a series of meetings between top administration officials and Live Nation CEO Michael Rapino,[69] and a reported direct call from President Trump to a senior DOJ official telling them to settle the case after meeting with Rapino in the Oval Office,[70] the DOJ abruptly settled[71] one week into trial.

What it means for Americans: The Trump DOJ settlement abandoned the initial breakup demand, instead accepting minor non-exclusivity promises at about a dozen secondary venues and a financial penalty equivalent to four days of Live Nation's annual revenue. Had the state AGs not rejected the settlement, Americans would have continued to be overcharged by Ticketmaster.[72]

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Nexstar and TEGNA: In August 2025, Nexstar Media Group—already the nation's largest owner of broadcast television stations—announced[73] a $6.2 billion deal to acquire TEGNA, one of its direct competitors. Combining Nexstar's 201 local stations with TEGNA's 64 stations would create a broadcasting behemoth with stations reaching an unprecedented 80 percent[74] of TV households in the United States (across 9 of the 10 largest media markets), exceeding the 39 percent limit set by Congress.

Trump's conflict: Trump's FCC cleared the transaction on March 19, 2026, using a facially unlawful[75] waiver to exempt Nexstar from the congressionally-set 39 percent limit.[76] The regulatory green light came after Nexstar temporarily took Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show[77] off the air following criticism from President Trump and FCC Chairman Brendan Carr. Carr warned[78] that "[broadcasters] can find ways to change conduct and take action, frankly, on Kimmel, or there's going to be additional work for the F.C.C. ahead." Nexstar spent more than $3.2 million on lobbying in 2025 alone, including on Trump-connected lobbying firms hired to get the merger through.[79]

What it means for Americans: The deal would give Nexstar increased leverage[80] to further suppress worker wages at a company where, according to one survey, 62 percent of Nexstar employees earned less than a living wage.[81] It would also likely lead to higher prices[82] for television viewers because the conglomerate would have more power to extract favorable terms from pay-TV providers, which would be passed down to viewers.[83]

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T-Mobile and UScellular: In 2024, T-Mobile announced an approximately $4.4 billion deal[84] to acquire substantially all of UScellular's wireless operations. The deal represented the latest in a relentless pattern of roll-up acquisitions[85] by T-Mobile, including MetroPCS, Sprint, and Mint Mobile, further consolidating control over the nation's cellular infrastructure. Trump's DOJ closed its investigation[86] one day after T-Mobile announced it was ending its DEI programs amid pressure from Trump's FCC, without seeking to block the deal or demanding divestitures. In a remarkably contradictory statement, then-Antitrust Division head Gail Slater admitted the deal would "consolidate yet more spectrum in the Big 3's oligopoly"[87] yet claimed it "would not result in sufficient harm to competition to warrant an enforcement action."

Trump's conflict: The approval, which some industry experts noted "reads like a complaint,"[88] came one day after T-Mobile announced it was ending its diversity, equity, and inclusion programs[89] under pressure from President Trump's FCC. T-Mobile donated an undisclosed amount to the White House Ballroom project.[90]

What it means for Americans: The Administration's approval[91] of the T-Mobile/UScellular deal removed from the market one of the last regional wireless providers that actively challenged the big three wireless firms on price. One consumer advocate stated that the deal would "inevitably lead to higher prices for consumers"[92] on their cell phone bills.

4.

PROTECTING AIRLINES WHILE PASSENGERS PAY THE PRICE

Overturned Airline Rule: The DOT worked on a rule that would have required airlines to automatically compensate passengers with cash payments of up to $775 for significant flight delays and cancellations caused by the airline.[93] The Trump administration abandoned the rule in early 2025, eliminating the automatic compensation requirement before it could take effect.

Trump's conflict: United Airlines donated $2.5 million to Freedom 250[94] and $1 million to Trump's inauguration.[95] American Airlines announced[96] it would match the federal $1,000 contribution to Trump Accounts for children of employees. Delta Air Lines donated[97] $1 million to Trump's inauguration and announced[98] it would match the $1,000 federal contribution to Trump Accounts for children of employees. Southwest Airlines is listed[99] as a Participating Partner of Freedom 250. This rule benefits all three airlines.

What it means for Americans: Had the rule been finalized, passengers experiencing airline-caused disruptions would have been eligible for up to $775 in cash compensation per incident.

5.

REWARDING POLITICAL ALLIES WHILE FAMILIES PAY HIGHER UTILITY BILLS

Coal plants emergency orders: Coal executive Joe Craft donated more than $1 million to Trump-aligned PACs during the 2024 cycle. The administration subsequently issued policies and emergency orders favorable to coal producers, including orders requiring aging coal plants to remain operating.[100]

Trump's conflict: More than $1 million in political contributions to Trump-aligned organizations from Joe Craft, according to the Federal Election Commission. (FEC,[101] Trump 47 Committee; FEC,[102] America PAC)

What it means for Americans: Media reports[103] estimate that the orders have already cost ratepayers and utilities ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars. Electricity customers and utilities bear the costs of keeping otherwise uneconomic plants operating.

Wind Energy Project Buyouts: The administration committed nearly $4 billion in taxpayer money to buy companies out of offshore-wind leases, paying companies to end offshore wind projects. One $1.2 billion buyout with energy company RWE led to a $900 million LNG investment[104] in a project majority-owned by Australian billionaire and Trump donor Michael Dorrell.

Trump's conflict: Dorrell reportedly donated more than $900,000 to Trump's inaugural committee.[105]

What it means for Americans: Cancelled energy projects mean higher utility costs for families—paid for by billions in taxpayer dollars. According to estimates,[106] the cancelled projects could have supplied power for more than five million homes.

6.

STEERING TAXPAYER RESOURCES TOWARD TRUMP-CONNECTED BUSINESSES

Vulcan Elements: Trump's White House reportedly intervened in the Pentagon's financing process for Vulcan Elements, a rare-earth magnet company in which Donald Trump Jr.'s venture-capital firm, 1789 Capital, had acquired an undisclosed stake roughly three months earlier.[107] According to ProPublica, White House adviser Peter Navarro initiated the request and Pentagon staff were instructed to expedite it; the Pentagon ultimately announced a $620 million loan to Vulcan, alongside a $50 million Commerce Department incentive and a government equity investment.[108] The Pentagon says political connections played no role in its funding decisions, while Trump Jr. and 1789 Capital say they did not participate in obtaining the loan.[109]

Trump's conflict: The deal benefited Vulcan Elements, a company backed by 1789 Capital, the venture-capital firm where Donald Trump Jr. is a partner.[110] ProPublica reported that estimates of Vulcan's valuation increased from roughly $200 million around the time 1789 Capital invested to roughly $2 billion following the deal, likely enhancing the value of 1789 Capital's investment. Because 1789 Capital has not disclosed the type of stake, the size of its investment, and Trump Jr.'s individual economic interest in the stake, the extent of Trump Jr.'s personal financial benefit cannot currently be determined.[111]

What it means for Americans: The transaction may have committed hundreds of millions of taxpayer money to a company tied to the president's son's investment firm, following an expedited process initiated by a senior White House advisor.[112]

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STEERING TAXPAYER RESOURCES TOWARD TRUMP-CONNECTED BUSINESSES

Kazakhstan mining deal: According to public reporting, the President of Kazakhstan told President Trump in September of 2025 that the Kazakh government planned to grant lucrative tungsten mining rights to an American company.[113] President Trump's sons and their partners then began investing in the mining venture shortly before the decision by the Kazakh government was announced that November.[114, 115] The mining project is seeking an estimated $2 billion of federal financing and taxpayer support from the Export-Import Bank (EXIM), the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and the Pentagon's Office of Strategic Capital (OSC).[116]

Trump's conflict: President Trump's sons reportedly secured a sizable investment in the mining operation just days before the mining deal in Kazakhstan was announced, after the President himself was told of the plan by the Kazakh President.[117] In October 2025, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump reportedly increased their investment in Skyline Builders, a company that paid $20 million for a 20 percent stake in Kaz Resources shortly before Kaz Resources's affiliate was awarded the mining venture in November of 2025, and President Trump's sons and their partners later invested an additional $50 million in the project.[118, 119]

What it means for Americans: American taxpayers may be asked to provide an estimated $2 billion of federal loans and financial support for the mining venture in Kazakhstan, potentially enriching the project's investors, including Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump who invested in the mining operation after President Trump's interaction with the President of Kazakhstan.[120, 121]

7.

REWARDING CORPORATE DONORS WHILE PUTTING AMERICANS' HEALTH AT RISK

Tobacco industry: In May 2026, Trump's Food and Drug Administration (FDA), overlooking the agency's regular rule-making process, authorized a new policy that enables tobacco manufacturers to circumvent federal law and sell flavored e-cigarettes without obtaining pre-market regulatory authorization as required in statute.[122] The new guidance also bypassed a federally-required public comment period and reporting alleges that certain FDA officials tasked with enforcing vaping regulations were not consulted on the new guidelines, spreading confusion within the agency about where the policy originated and who authorized it.[123] During a lunch, President Trump reportedly called then-FDA commissioner Makary, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kennedy, and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Oz to express his frustrations with the FDA's regulation of e-cigarettes.[124] The new policy was published less than one week later.[125]

Trump's conflict: While on the campaign trail in 2024, President Trump promised to "save"[126] the vaping industry. The tobacco industry, including major companies such as Reynolds American and Altria, has given millions to Trump-aligned PACs and other administration priorities,[127] including Trump's inauguration and White House ballroom. About a week before the FDA rolled out the new guidance, a subsidiary of Reynolds American donated[128] $5 million to a super PAC backed by President Trump, bringing the company's total donations to the Trump-backed super PAC to $8 million. Two days after the donation, a top executive at Reynolds American, two Reynolds American-affiliated lobbyists, and two executives from Altria had lunch with President Trump at his golf club in Jupiter, Florida during which the tobacco industry representatives reportedly expressed their dissatisfaction with the way the FDA was regulating their industry.[129]

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What it means for Americans: Public-health experts have warned that there is clear data showing flavored tobacco products draw in young people and that the tobacco industry deliberately[130] markets flavored products to this demographic. According to the 2025 Youth Tobacco Survey,[131] over 1.4 million middle and high school students still use e-cigarettes. The new guidance exacerbates harms from other Trump administration efforts, including the dismantling of tobacco prevention and cessation programs, elimination of the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health and its Tips From Former Smokers educational campaign, upheaval at the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products, and termination of NIH research on effective messaging to dissuade teenagers from vaping.[132]

Food Safety: In March 2025, with the support of large food producers, the Trump administration delayed a food traceability rule that would have prevented more Americans from getting sick from foodborne disease outbreaks.[133] In May 2026, Trump's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced an outbreak of cyclosporiasis linked to iceberg lettuce, which resulted in almost 20,000 laboratory-confirmed cases of confirmed cyclosporiasis, including over 1,000 hospitalizations and 2 deaths.[134]

Trump's conflict: Less than a week after Trump admin delayed traceability rule, the parent company of Taylor Farms made[135] a $1 million donation to MAGA, Inc., President Trump's SuperPAC. A few months later, the parent company of Taylor Farms contributed another $100,000 to a Trump-aligned PAC with the same Treasurer as MAGA Inc., just before the Trump administration announced that it would end the mandatory reporting of cyclospora.[136]

What it means for Americans: Patients with cyclosporiasis can experience cramping, bloating, and diarrhea that can last for weeks and, in some cases, months. To date, the outbreak has resulted in almost 20,000 confirmed cases, two deaths and over 1,000 hospitalizations.[137]

8.

SPECIAL TARIFF EXEMPTIONS FOR CORPORATIONS WHILE AMERICAN FAMILIES PAY HIGHER PRICES

Antwerp Diamonds: On July 24, the Trump administration officially exempted European natural diamonds from new Section 301 tariffs, restoring the Belgian diamond industry's prior zero-percent tariff access.[138]

Trump's conflict: The Antwerp World Diamond Centre gifted Trump a watch-sized, 18-karat gold ring encrusted with 321 diamonds and 75 gemstones on June 28 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States.[139] Media reports have put the value of the ring at $25,000 to $35,000.[140]

What it means for Americans: Corporate interests and luxury imports get exemptions while average families continue to pay higher costs for chaotic tariffs.

Apple: On August 6, 2025, Trump announced a 100% tariff on imported chips—and in the same press conference said Apple would be exempt.[141]

Trump's conflict: Minutes earlier, then-Apple CEO Tim Cook presented Trump with a custom engraved glass plaque on a 24-karat gold base.[142] Cook had also personally given $1 million to Trump's inauguration fund.[143]

What it means for Americans: Corporate interests get exemptions while average families continue to pay higher costs for chaotic tariffs.

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Rolex: The Trump Administration slashed tariffs on Swiss imports from 39 percent to 15 percent just days after Swiss executives visited the White House.[144]

Trump's conflict: Rolex CEO Jean-Frédéric Dufour[145] presented President Trump with a personalized gold bar worth more than $130,000, a luxury Rolex desk clock, and luxury box tickets to the U.S. Open.[146]

What it means for Americans: Corporate interests and luxury items get exemptions while average families continue to pay higher costs for chaotic tariffs.

9.

TAX CUTS FOR BILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRE CORPORATIONS

<u>One Big Beautiful Bill Act and Corporate Tax Cuts:</u> Trump, with the support from Republicans in Congress, passed massive corporate tax cuts in OBBBA, which are projected[147] to lower corporations' taxes by nearly $1 trillion over ten years.

<u>Trump's conflict:</u> The bill benefitted many big corporations that donated to the Trump campaign, inaugural committee, or Trump-aligned PACs.

For example:

- **Meta donated $1 million to Trump's inaugural committee and paid about $6.8 billion less in taxes in 2025 than in 2024, in significant part due to OBBBA.[148]**
- **Amazon donated $1 million to Trump's inaugural committee and paid nearly $9 billion less in taxes in 2025 than in 2024, in significant part due to OBBBA.[149]**
- **Alphabet donated $1 million to Trump's inaugural committee and paid more than $7 billion less in taxes in 2025 than in 2024, in significant part due to OBBBA.[150]**

<u>What it means for Americans:</u> Tax cuts were paid for by mainly cutting Medicaid and SNAP.[151] These cuts have contributed to over 5 million people, including 1.2 million children, losing SNAP benefits since July 2025.[152] And more than 10 million people are expected to lose Medicaid coverage over the next ten years.[153]

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TAX CUTS FOR BILLIONAIRES AND BILLIONAIRE CORPORATIONS

Tax Settlement: After Trump sued the federal government—which he leads—he secured a settlement agreement granting Trump, his sons, and the Trump Organization broad immunity from any past tax crimes, potentially allowing them to get away with stealing taxpayer money if they had committed tax fraud.[154]

Trump's conflict: Trump, his family, and his organization receive immunity from tax audits of any activity occurring before May 19, 2026.[155] Notably, Trump had been under investigation as recently as 2024 for allegedly improperly claiming tax breaks, and this investigation could have cost him more than $100 million if he was found liable for doing so, according to the New York Times.[156]

What it means for Americans: A double standard where the American people are responsible for paying their taxes but the President and his inner circle get a free pass to break the law. There is also lost taxpayer money if President Trump, his sons, or the Trump organization had committed any tax crimes prior to May 19, 2026.

Direct File: IRS Direct File was a tax filing program that allowed households in eligible states to file their federal taxes directly with the IRS at no cost.[157] The Trump Administration ended the Direct File program in 2025, shutting down the service and preventing its expansion to more taxpayers.[158]

Trump's conflict: Intuit,[159] parent of TurboTax, gave $1 million to Trump's inauguration fund, and spent around $5.6 billion lobbying in 2024 and 2025 to end the program.[160]

What it means for Americans: The average American spends approximately $160 per year on commercial tax prep services – a cost that could have been eliminated for the millions of taxpayers that were eligible for Direct File.[161]

Conclusion

Nearly two years into President Trump's second term, he has broken the biggest promises he made to bring down costs. Rather than prioritizing policies that will reduce costs for the public, the President and his Administration are taking steps to enrich billionaires and the wealthy—at the expense of everyone else.

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