

**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** Groundwork Collaborative  
**Date:** March 12, 2026  
**Re:** As Prices Spike, Make Trump Own the Fallout of His War on Iran

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In the wake of President Trump's war on Iran, the near-closure of the Strait of Hormuz is rattling global commodity markets and supply chains. Oil prices have topped \$100/barrel, prices at the pump are soaring, and a fertilizer shock could trigger a global food crisis. Gas prices are nearly [\\$3.50 per gallon](#) on average, up more than 50 cents over the past week. Analysts say Americans will spend nearly a [billion](#) more on gas next week. Diesel prices are up 86 cents to \$4.60 per gallon and jet fuel prices have skyrocketed, hiking prices for shipping and airfare.

These price hikes are piling on to voters' already-high frustration with inflation. While the president launches new foreign wars with tariffs and troops, voters are clear that the only war they want him to wage is on inflation. Trump has told reporters that rising gas prices are "a little glitch," dismissing voters' concerns by saying "if they rise, they rise." The president is on a collision course with an electorate that elected him to deliver on affordability.

***This disaster is entirely Trump's making. Policymakers should not provide cover for his historically unpopular war.***

## **Trump's War on Iran is Extremely Unpopular**

As of March 6th – before the jump in oil prices over the weekend – Strength in Numbers [found](#) an average approval for the war at just 38% (-11 on net), **the worst-ever support for a war at its start.**

- No president in modern polling history has launched a major military operation with the public already against him. Trump's own Syria strikes in April 2017 polled at [50% approval](#) (+9 net). Obama's Libya intervention in 2011 [polled at 47%](#) (+10 net).
- Just as Trump launched his attack on Iran, [just 25% of voters](#) believed the US should continue strikes – nearly twice as many (47%) said the U.S. should stop. And [74% of voters](#) were concerned about the possibility of a full-scale war with Iran.
- [Three-quarters of voters](#) oppose sending American troops into Iran, something the administration has not ruled out.

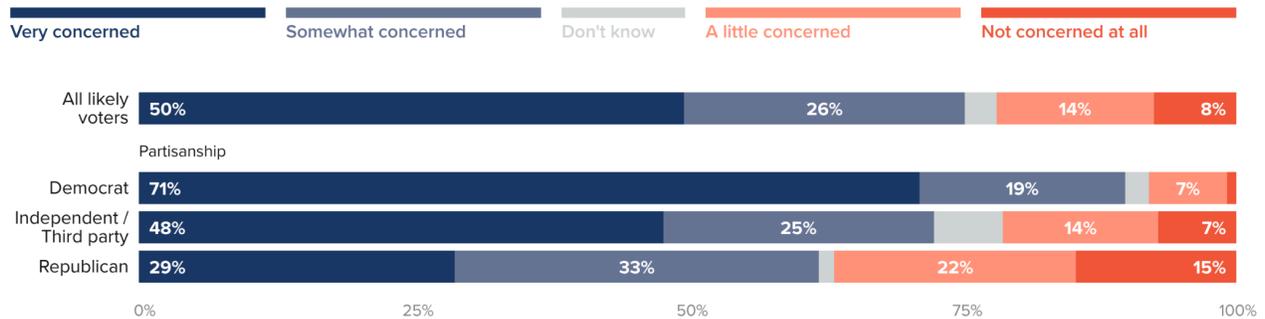
## **Voters Believe Trump's War Will Spike Prices**

Polling from [Groundwork and Data for Progress](#) finds that **nearly 9 in 10 voters say the war in Iran will raise prices on essential items**, including 57% of all likely voters who say it is very likely. Half of voters are very concerned about these price increases.

- A [Reuters/Ipsos poll](#) conducted over the weekend found that half of Americans believe the war will have a mostly negative impact on their personal finances, while a [Quinnipiac poll](#) found that three-quarters of voters are concerned that the war will hike oil and gas prices.

## Half of Voters Are Very Concerned About the War in Iran Raising Their Prices

How concerned are you, if at all, that the war in Iran will raise the prices you pay for essential items like gas, food, and other imported goods?



March 6–9, 2026 survey of 1,242 U.S. likely voters

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## Trump Bears Total Responsibility, and Policymakers Shouldn't Bail Him Out

Some policymakers have proposed band-aids to help offset rising prices, such as suspending the federal gas tax and tapping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. These proposals are misguided.

- For one, **the only real solution to the fallout from Trump's war on Iran is to end the war.**
  - Suspending the gas tax would do little to lower prices – while gutting the Highway Trust Fund, which already faces a budget shortfall.
  - Trump failed to replenish the Strategic Petroleum Reserve when oil prices were near a four-year low. Now as oil prices soar, Americans are paying the price for that failure at the pump.
- **To meaningfully lower prices for their constituents, policymakers should do everything in their power to bring this unpopular and inflationary war to an end as quickly as possible.**

## Messaging Guidance

Voters do not want this war. Trump campaigned on being the anti-war candidate and lowering prices on day one. He's broken both promises. **Persuasive messaging connects the war in Iran to affordability and the need for energy independence here at home:**

- *"Basics like groceries, utilities, and health care are getting harder for ordinary Americans to afford. Now with Trump's war in Iran, gas prices will spike too... We must end the war with Iran and transition to **a clean energy economy that produces all the power we need right here at home.**"*
  - 54% of voters preferred this message (+13 over the GOP argument), including 57% of Independents (+21 net) and one in four Republicans.

# Most Voters Side With Viewing the War in Iran as Too Costly Rather Than Necessary for Americans' Safety

Which of the following statements about the war in Iran comes closer to your view, even if neither are exactly right?

## Statement A:

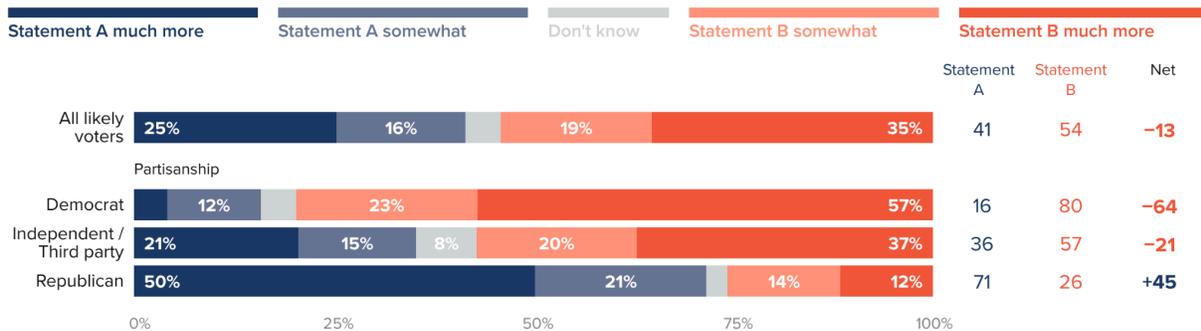
For decades, the Iranian regime has chanted "Death to America" and sponsored terrorism across the world. They have tried to build a nuclear weapon and President Trump will not put up with it any longer.

The U.S. military is conducting a strong and strategic operation to ensure that Americans today and for generations to come no longer live under imminent threat from this violent regime.

## Statement B:

Basics like groceries, utilities, and health care are getting harder for ordinary Americans to afford. Now with Trump's war in Iran, gas prices will spike too. The more we're dependent on foreign oil, the more power foreign wars will have over the daily lives of ordinary Americans.

We must end the war with Iran and transition to a clean energy economy that produces all the power we need right here at home.



## Example Talking Points

- Trump's reckless and illegal war with Iran is yet another example of an administration out of touch with the priorities of American families. **Americans are asking for lower prices, but at every turn Trump is sending them higher.**
- Basics like groceries, utilities, and health care are getting harder for ordinary Americans to afford because of the president's economic agenda. And now Trump's war on Iran is making things worse, spiking prices for gas, food, and other essentials.
  - Gas prices shot up 50 cents in just one week and oil prices hit \$100 a barrel, which experts believe could push gas prices above \$4 a gallon within weeks. But Trump says he doesn't "have any concern" about skyrocketing gas prices in the midst of an affordability crisis that he created.
- Trump promised 'no more wars' and to put America first, but instead of lowering utility bills, grocery prices, and health care costs here at home, he's dragging the US into another costly foreign war.
  - Trump and Republicans in Congress cut Americans' health care and food assistance to pay for tax cuts for the rich, and now he is going to drive up costs even more by spending billions in wars overseas.
- The more Trump and Republicans in Congress keep us dependent on foreign oil, the more power foreign wars like this will have over ordinary Americans.
  - Trump and Republicans in Congress repealed public investments that would've built more clean energy here at home, lowering costs and protecting consumers from foreign oil shocks. Now families are paying the price.