

Monica De La Cruz (TX-15) Research Report

Significant Findings

De La Cruz Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill, Which Would Kick 66,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In TX-15 And Threaten Food Assistance For 55,480 Households In The District

- ✓ 2025: De La Cruz supported the One Big Beautiful Bill.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted the largest cuts to Medicaid in history, slashing local hospital revenue, and would kick more than 65,000 people in TX-15 off their health insurance.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill was projected to cut nearly \$29 million in revenue to hospitals in TX-15
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill let ACA tax credits expire, driving up health care costs for the more than 152,000 individuals in TX-15 on marketplace plans.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill enacted the largest SNAP cuts in history, threatening food assistance for 55,480 households in TX-15.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill gave billions in tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy at the expense of working families.
- ✓ The One Big Beautiful Bill would add \$3.4 trillion to the national debt.

NOTE: District specific numbers are pulled from data that was published before the new redistricted TX-15 lines. This does not apply to the hospital revenue research.

De La Cruz Voted To Make ICE The Highest-Funded U.S. Law Enforcement Agency And Empowered Them To Arrest And Target Migrants In South Texas, Which Disrupted The Region's Construction Industry Worsening The Labor Shortage, Prolonged Construction Projects, And Threatened Higher Home Prices

- ✓ July 2025: Rep. Monica De La Cruz voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act which made ICE the highest-funded U.S. law enforcement agency.
- ✓ 2025-2026: ICE increasingly targeted and arrested migrants with no criminal records, with a quarter of all ICE arrests occurring in Texas, where South Texas alone witnessed 9,100 ICE arrests.
- ✓ Aggressive immigration enforcement was disrupting the South Texas Construction industry, worsening the already deep labor shortage, prolonging work projects, and decreasing construction activity by 30% to 40%.
- ✓ 2026: Immigration raids causing construction delays were impacting the South Texas economy threatening higher home prices and forcing suppliers to lay off employees.

De La Cruz Was Late To Respond To ICE's Arrest And Detention Of Three McAllen Mariachi Students She Paraded Around Washington, DC

- ✓ 2025: De La Cruz invited McAllen's Mariachi Oro group to Washington, DC.
- ✓ May 2025: De La Cruz said she was working to ensure that Mariachi Oro's time in Washington was "memorable."
- ✓ June 2025: De La Cruz took photos with and recognized Mariachi Oro on the House floor and praised their contributions to Tejano culture.
- ✓ February 2026: ICE detained Mariachi Oro members of the Gámez-Cuéllar family despite having no criminal record and attending every immigration court date and check-in with ICE.
- ✓ ICE detained two siblings of the Mariachi Oro group along with their parents and younger brother and separated them between the Dilley and Raymondville ICE detention centers.
- ✓ Two Gámez-Cuéllar siblings performed mariachi in the Capitol and toured Trump's White House.
- ✓ March 2026: South Texas Democrats Bobby Pulido and Rep. Vicente Gonzalez spoke out on behalf of the family before Rep. De La Cruz.
 - ✓ 11:30am CT – Rep. Gonzalez called on every member of the South Texas delegation to fight to keep the Gámez-Cuéllar family together.
 - ✓ 1:52pm CT – Candidate Bobby Pulido: "These mariachi students were good enough for Monica De La Cruz's photo ops. Now they're in detention centers and she's nowhere to be found."
 - ✓ 3:10pm CT – De La Cruz said her office was "closely monitoring" the Gámez-Cuéllar family's "situation."
 - ✓ 7:11pm CT – De La Cruz's office "requested a visit" to the Raymondville ICE facility.
- ✓ Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar's girlfriend, Ezra Cavazos, said De La Cruz's office told her there was little it could do to help.
- ✓ A person close to Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar accused De La Cruz of delaying Antonio's release until she could be there to receive him for a photo-op.
- ✓ The New York Times reported a person close to Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar said De La Cruz delayed Antonio's release until she arrived to receive him.

De La Cruz's Immigration Efforts Had Not Borne Fruit, Dismissed By South Texas Leaders As "Photo Ops" And "Too Little, Too Late"

- ✓ The South Texas Builders Association blasted Monica De La Cruz's immigration meetings with Speaker Mike Johnson as a mere photo-op.
- ✓ South Texas builders characterized De La Cruz's meetings with Speaker Johnson on immigration as "all photo-op" and "too little, too late."
- ✓ De La Cruz's self-described "top legislative priority" – the Bracero Program 2.0 Act – languished and failed to gain traction in Congress.

- ✓ De La Cruz's agricultural guestworker visa reform bill – her “top legislative priority” – had just two cosponsors.
- ✓ South Texas farmers suffered at the hands of ICE's mass deportation tactics.

De La Cruz Stayed Silent As Trump Moved To Undermine Texas Cattle Ranchers With Argentina Imports

- ✓ After announcing plans to give Argentina a \$40 billion lifeline, Trump said he wanted to import more beef from the country.
- ✓ The United States committed \$40 billion to rescuing Argentina's flailing economy.
- ✓ Days later, Trump announced he would look to increase beef imports from Argentina by buying four times the typical quota of Argentine beef.
- ✓ Texas was the leading cattle state in the country, representing billions in economic activity.
- ✓ Texas had the most cattle out of any state with 12.2 million head of cattle.
- ✓ Cattle was Texas's largest agricultural commodity, totaling \$15.5 billion in value.
- ✓ TX-15 contained a large concentration of cattle.
- ✓ Cattle ranchers roundly condemned Trump's plan to import more beef from Argentina.
- ✓ The National Cattlemen's Beef Association said they could not stand behind President Trump “while he undercuts the future of family farmers and ranchers by importing Argentinian beef.”
- ✓ Farm Action: President Trump's Plan “is a betrayal of the American rancher.”
- ✓ R-CALF USA, the largest group representing solely cattle ranchers, said importing more Argentinian beef would exacerbate pains in the U.S. cattle industry.
- ✓ Texas leaders pushed back on Trump's plan to import more beef from Argentina.
- ✓ Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller warned importing more beef from Argentina would hurt Texas ranchers.
- ✓ Texas-based Beef Initiative Association Council accused Trump of choosing a foreign nation over American farmers.
- ✓ Despite boasting of her support for ranchers and farmers, De La Cruz was nowhere to be found.
- ✓ De La Cruz did not sign onto a House Republicans letter urging the Trump administration not to follow through on Trump's plan to import more beef from Argentina.
- ✓ De La Cruz boasted of her support for ranchers and farmers.
- ✓ De La Cruz made no public statement addressing Trump's plan.

De La Cruz Voted For Reckless Tariff Policies That Hurt South Texas Farmers Making It Harder For Them To Sell Their Crops And Raised Costs For Families

- ✓ De La Cruz defended Trump's Tariffs, and repeatedly voted to keep them in place, contradicting her pledge to oppose them
- ✓ The Texas agriculture industry struggled to sell crops and keep up with costs because Of Trump's tariffs.
- ✓ 2025: The tariffs were one of the largest tax increases in the country's history.
- ✓ 2026: The tariffs were estimated to cost American families thousands per year.
- ✓ Consumers shouldered the burden of Trump's tariffs as they raised the price of basic goods like food and clothing.

While The Oil And Gas Industry Blamed Tariffs For Thousands Of Layoffs, Lower Production, And Cuts To Capital Investments, Rep. Monica De La Cruz Voted To Uphold Republicans' Reckless Tariffs, Despite Vowing To Oppose Harmful Tariffs And Protect Oil Jobs

- ✓ As the oil and gas industry shed thousands of jobs and cuts billions in capital investments, executives blamed tariffs for driving higher costs and economic uncertainty.
- ✓ 2025: Texas and the U.S. oil and gas industry scaled back investment and slowed investment activity due to elevated uncertainty.
- ✓ 2025: U.S. and Texas oil companies cut thousands of jobs.
- ✓ Texas-based ConocoPhillips, Diamondback Energy, and Latigo Petroleum said tariffs caused uncertainty and raised operating costs.
- ✓ The Texas Alliance of Energy Producers warned of more oilfield layoffs as companies sought to cut costs.
- ✓ 2026: Key measurements of oil and gas production indicated steep declines, including in South Texas.
- ✓ 2026: Oil rig counts consistently fell compared to 2025.
- ✓ May 2026: The U.S. Frac Spread Count, a measure for tracking fracking equipment and activity, experienced sharp drops throughout the year.
- ✓ May 2026: The South Texas-based Eagle Ford Basin experienced a 9% drop in oil rigs.
- ✓ De La Cruz defended Republicans' reckless tariffs, and repeatedly voted to keep them in place, contradicting her pledge to oppose them.
- ✓ De La Cruz repeatedly voted to stop Congress from reining in Republicans' tariffs.
- ✓ De La Cruz said on her campaign website she would oppose harmful tariffs.
- ✓ De La Cruz said she would protect Texas oil jobs and energy.
- ✓ In speeches, social media posts, and on her campaign website, De La Cruz pledged to defend Texas energy and oil field jobs.
- ✓ Venezuelan oil could further reduce the price of oil and stall companies' domestic investments.

- ✓ January 2026: The introduction of more Venezuelan oil was predicted to exacerbate price pressures on an oil market reeling from slower economic growth.
- ✓ Some Republicans from Texas and other oil-producing states, but not De La Cruz, warned that Venezuelan oil could negatively impact the American oil sector.

De La Cruz Supported The Iran War, Which Caused The Cost Of Fertilizer To Skyrocket, Raising Costs For Farmers In South Texas And Increased The Price Of Gas In The State

- ✓ March 2026: De La Cruz supported strikes on Iran.
- ✓ The Iran war made the price of gas skyrocket just weeks after De La Cruz touted the low price of gas in South Texas.
- ✓ May 2026: Gas prices increased 50% since the start of the Iran war.
- ✓ Forbes: May 20, 2026: The average price of gas in Texas \$4.04.
- ✓ February 2026: De La Cruz said low gas prices were the result of Trump's "drive to unleash American energy."
- ✓ Since the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran, the price of fertilizer "skyrocketed," impacting the operations cost of Texas farmers which could lead to higher food prices.
- ✓ The price of fertilizer "skyrocketed" after the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran.
- ✓ Texas Farm Bureau: Texas farmers were hit especially hard by rising fertilizer prices and cannot afford all the fertilizer they need this year.
- ✓ Farmers warned the cost of food will go up as fertilizer costs increase.

De La Cruz Was Accused Of Abusing Her Former Stepdaughter

- ✓ 2021-2022: De La Cruz divorced her husband, Juan Hernandez, whom she had married in 2015.
- ✓ October 2021: Hernandez accused De La Cruz of "cruel and aggressive treatment" and being "verbally abusive" towards his daughter, damaging her "precarious" mental health.
- ✓ Hernandez alleged De La Cruz was "verbally abusive" towards his daughter and damaged her "mental well being."
- ✓ Hernandez requested and was granted a temporary restraining order on the basis of De La Cruz's "cruel and aggressive treatment" towards her stepdaughter.
- ✓ De La Cruz allegedly pinched her stepdaughter to get her to stop crying at church.
- ✓ Hernandez's ex-wife alleged De La Cruz threatened to bring up her stepdaughter's medical history in order to defend herself in the divorce.
- ✓ Hernandez claimed De La Cruz refused to go to "parenting classes" and "didn't want to make things better for my daughter."

- ✓ Shortly before the divorce filing, De La Cruz refused to let her stepdaughter live in her home and repeatedly wrote “F--- ELLA” about her in texts to Hernandez.
- ✓ De La Cruz accused Hernandez of having an affair with his ex-wife and sent the ex-wife threatening text messages.
- ✓ De La Cruz said that mental health issues played a role in her divorce and alluded to those issues causing the abuse allegations which she said were false.
- ✓ De La Cruz filed a court motion to stop her husband from talking to the press or on social media.

De La Cruz Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill, Which Would Kick 66,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In TX-15 And Threaten Food Assistance For 55,480 Households In The District

2025: De La Cruz Supported The One Big Beautiful Bill

July 2025: Rep. Monica De La Cruz Voted For The One Big Beautiful Bill Act. “July 3, 2025 — House Vote 190 Fiscal 2025 Budget Reconciliation Measure — Motion to Concur Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would permanently extend nearly \$4 trillion in expiring individual and business tax cuts, create several new tax breaks and fund border and immigration enforcement and air traffic control upgrades. It would cut Medicaid and other safety net programs to partly offset the cost. Among other provisions, it would raise the statutory debt ceiling by \$5 trillion and appropriate more than \$448 billion in mandatory funding for Trump administration priorities and other needs, including \$153 billion for defense, \$89 billion for immigration enforcement, and \$89.5 billion for border control and security. It also would increase the state and local tax deduction cap to \$40,000 annually for five years for households making up to \$500,000 a year until 2030, when it would permanently revert to \$10,000. Motion agreed to 218-214. Note: A "yea" was a vote in support of the president's position.” [HR 1, Vote No. 190, [7/3/25](#); CQ, [7/3/25](#)]

De La Cruz Said The One Big Beautiful Bill “[Ensured] Rural Healthcare Facilities Can Support Americans For Years To Come.” “The OBBB invests in sustainability to ensure rural healthcare facilities can support Americans for years to come.” [Twitter, [@RepMonicaDLC](#), [8/12/25](#)]



[Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [8/12/25](#)]

De La Cruz Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill Would “Strengthen Health Outcomes For Patients And Providers.” “The OBBB will strengthen health outcomes for patients and providers.” [Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [8/19/25](#)]



[Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [8/19/25](#)]

De La Cruz Said The One Big Beautiful Bill “Will Allow Rural Healthcare Facilities And Communities To Flourish!” “The OBBB will allow rural healthcare facilities and communities to flourish!” [X.com, @RepMonicaDLC, [8/9/25](#)]



[X.com, @RepMonicaDLC, [8/9/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In History, Slashing Local Hospital Revenue, And Would Kick Over 65,000 People In TX-15 Off Their Health Insurance

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In The Program’s History

The Hill: Republicans Passed “The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960s.”

“Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

- **The Hill: The Republicans’ Reconciliation Bill Made About \$1 Trillion In Cuts To Medicaid.** “Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Take Health Insurance Away From More Than 14 Million People

KFF: “CBO Estimates Show That The Number Of Uninsured People Will Increase By More Than 14 Million In 2034.” [KFF, [8/20/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “Congress Officially Passes Trump’s Bill To Kick Millions Off Medicaid.” [Rolling Stone, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick More Than 65,000 People In TX-15 Off Their Health Insurance

June 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated 65,193 People In Texas’s 15th Congressional District Would Lose Health Insurance By 2034 Due To Congressional Republicans’ Cuts To Medicaid And The ACA. [Joint Economic Committee Minority, [September 2025](#)]

TX-15: Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance
61,600	3,493	65,193

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, [September 2025](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Cut Nearly \$29 Million In Revenue To Hospitals In TX-15

Under The One Big Beautiful Bill, Hospitals In TX-15 Were Projected To Lose \$28,956,159 As A Result Of Medicaid Cuts. [Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

TX-15 Hospital Revenue Losses		
Hospital	Location	Amount
Doctor’s Hospital At Renaissance	Edinburg, TX	\$13,723,250
South Texas Health System	Edinburg, TX	\$10,632,708
Knapp Medical Center	Weslaco, TX	\$1,678,345
Christus Spohn Alice	Alice, TX	\$829,344
Gonzales Healthcare Systems	Gonzales, TX	\$693,463
Christus Spohn Beeville	Beeville, TX	\$452,772
Cornerstone Regional Hospital	Edinburg, TX	\$311,710
Cuero Community Hospital	Cuero, TX	\$331,564
Yoakum Community Hospital	Yoakum, TX	\$157,887
Refugio Memorial Hospital	Refugio, TX	\$74,490
Lavaca Medical Center	Hallettsville, TX	\$71,167
TOTAL		\$28,956,159

[Third Way, [7/8/25](#)]

RESEARCHER’S NOTE: The hospitals included here are included in the most up-to-date lines of the district.

South Texas Health System Edinburg Was Named Best Regional Hospital In Texas By US News & World Report, The Only Hospital In South Texas To Win The Distinction. “South Texas Health System Edinburg has been named Best Regional Hospital in Texas for 2025-2026 by the U.S. News & World Report, according to a news release. STHS is only one of 504 hospitals nationwide and the only facility in South Texas to earn the distinction, according to a news release. They were ranked #24 in the state of Texas. The news release said it is the fourth consecutive year the hospital has been named to the annual list of top hospitals by U.S. News & World Report. They were recognized for their high performance in providing complex care across multiple medical specialties. The magazine evaluated more than 4,400 hospitals and only 13 percent earned a Best Hospital designation, according to the news release. STHS is the only hospital in the Rio Grande Valley to make the list,

according to the news release. The list is compiled to help patients and their doctors make more informed decisions about where to receive medical care.” [KRGV, [7/30/25](#)]

South Texas Health System Was The First Hospital In The Rio Grande Valley With A Neonatal Surgery Center, And The Only Freestanding Hospital For Children In The RGV. “South Texas Health System has compiled a distinguished list of firsts: First to offer private behavioral health inpatient treatment in the Rio Grande Valley First neonatal surgery center in the Valley First designated Level II Trauma Center in Hidalgo County First and only freestanding hospital for children in the Rio Grande Valley Air ambulance services are stationed at STHS McAllen. South Texas Air Med is the largest independently owned air medical provider in the United States. STHS McAllen, STHS Heart, STHS Edinburg and STHS Childrens are equipped with helipads.” [South Texas Health System website, [accessed 9/8/25](#)]

Rural CHRISTUS Spohn Health System Hospitals In Beeville And Alice Won “Rural Stroke Gold” Recognitions From The American Heart Association And American Stroke Association. “All three of CHRISTUS Spohn Health System’s rural hospitals are being recognized for excellence in stroke care by the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. The national award, Get With The Guidelines – Stroke, is given to hospitals that have demonstrated excellence in stroke care. The recognition highlights the health care facilities providing the most up-to-date, research-based guidelines and quick recovery times. All three of CHRISTUS Spohn Health System’s rural hospitals were recognized: CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital – Alice received Rural Stroke Gold CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital – Beeville received Rural Stroke Gold CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital – Kleberg received Rural Stroke Gold” [Christus Health, [7/29/25](#)]

Yoakum Community Hospital Was The Only Level IV Trauma In The Area Encompassing Sparsely Populated Central Texas Counties. “Comprehensive Healthcare Services: Yoakum Community Hospital provides a broad range of inpatient and outpatient healthcare services to meet the evolving health care needs of our community. These services include laboratory, rehabilitation, imaging, emergency and urgent care, general medicine, diabetes education, treatment for sleep disorders, surgery, cardiology, and the many specialty physicians who schedule patient appointments at the YCH Outpatient Clinic. Trauma Center: The Yoakum Community Hospital team is the only Level IV trauma center in the area. We believe this recognition indicates the quality of care. Communities We Serve: We have an ongoing commitment to patients in Lavaca County, DeWitt County, Gonzales County, Victoria County including the communities of Yoakum, Gonzales, Victoria, Cuero, Shiner, Moulton, Flatonia, Schulenburg, Hallettsville and the surrounding communities.” [Yoakum Community Hospital website, [accessed 9/5/25](#)]

- **Yoakum Community Hospital Was Founded In 1922 And Operated As A Nonprofit Hospital.** “Strong Legacy of Healthcare: Yoakum Community Hospital has provided healthcare since 1922. The 23-bed hospital operates as a not-for-profit hospital managed by Community Hospital Corporation of Plano, Texas. Patients benefit from the latest medical technology along with comprehensive healthcare delivered by highly skilled physicians, nurses and professional staff. Our dedication to providing comprehensive healthcare services with compassion, dignity and respect demonstrates our standard of quality healthcare and superior service to our community.” [Yoakum Community Hospital website, [accessed 9/5/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Let ACA Tax Credits Expire, Driving Up Health Care Costs For 152,925 Individuals In TX-15 On Marketplace Plans

The One Big Beautiful Bill And Trump’s Tariffs Made Health Care More Expensive For 152,925 TX-15 Residents That Got Coverage From ACA Marketplace Plans

2025: 3,999,266 Texans Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

Number Of Texas Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
State	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
Texas	3,999,266

[KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

2025: 152,925 Individuals In TX-15 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

Number Of TX-15 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
TX-15	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
TX-15	152,925

[KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

2025: 141,000 Individuals In TX-15 Benefited From Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [2/3/25](#)]

Number Of TX-15 Residents Receiving ACA Premium Tax Credits In 2025	
TX-15	ACA Premium Tax Credit Beneficiaries
TX-15	141,000

[KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

KFF Health System Tracker: Insurers That Participated In The ACA Marketplaces Raised Premiums On Average By 20% In 2026. “For 2026, across 312 insurers participating in the ACA Marketplaces from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, this analysis shows a median proposed premium increase of 18%, which is about 11 percentage points higher than last year. This is the largest rate change insurers have requested since 2018, the last time that policy uncertainty contributed to sharp premium increases. On average, ACA Marketplace insurers are raising premiums by about 20% in 2026. Based on a more detailed analysis of available documents from insurers in 19 states and the District of Columbia, like in prior years, growth in health care prices stood out as a key factor driving costs in 2026. Insurers cite increasing cost and utilization of high-priced drugs as well as general market factors, such as increasing labor costs and inflation, as contributing to premium increases.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans. “The OBBBA did not extend enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace plans. As a result, when open enrollment begins on November 1, 2025, 20 million marketplace enrollees will see their premium costs spike.” [Center for American Progress, [7/29/25](#)]

- **The Majority Of Insurers Took Into Account The Potential Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For Their Rate Increases.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]
- **The Majority Of Insurers Assumed Enhanced Tax Credits Would Expire At The End Of 2025, Which Caused Them To Raise Their Rates By An Average Of 4%.** “Uncertainty over federal policy changes has forced insurers to make some assumptions when developing their rates for 2026. Commonly mentioned by insurers is the impact of the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, which are scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, unless extended by Congress. The majority of insurers have assumed that enhanced tax credits will expire at the end of this year, driving rates an average of 4 percentage points higher than they otherwise would be. These increased rates are due to insurers anticipating that some healthier members will leave the ACA Marketplaces when their subsidies decrease, creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]
- **The Expiration Of Enhanced Tax Credits Would Lead To Out-Of-Pocket Premiums For ACA Marketplace Enrollees Increasing By An Average Of Over 75%.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the

majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

18% Of Monica De La Cruz’s Constituents Obtained Health Coverage Through The Affordable Care Act, The Highest Percentage In Texas

18% Of Monica De La Cruz’s Constituents Obtained Health Coverage Through The Affordable Care Act, The Highest Percentage In Texas. “In De La Cruz’s district in South Texas, 18% of residents have coverage through the the Affordable Care Act, more than anywhere else in Texas. Without the subsidies, residents in the 15th district will see their premiums spike by 175% on average next year, according to an analysis by the public health nonprofit KFF.” [San Antonio Express-News, [12/11/25](#)]

Without ACA Subsidies, TX-15 Residents Faced A 175% Hike In Average Premiums In 2026

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KFF: A 60-Year-Old Couple In TX-15 Earning \$82,000 Would See Their Premiums Rise Nearly \$1,400 On Average From \$581 To \$1,957

KFF: A 60-Year-Old Couple In TX-15 Earning \$82,000 Would See Their Premiums Rise Nearly \$1,400 On Average From \$581 To \$1,957. “De La Cruz, who represents an area that was long considered a Democratic stronghold, is facing a potentially tough general election next year against Tejano music star Bobby Pulido. According the KFF data, a 60-year-old couple in the district that earns \$82,000 will see their premiums rise on average from \$581 to \$1,957.” [San Antonio Express-News, [12/11/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest SNAP Cuts In History, Threatening Food Assistance For 55,480 Households In TX-15

Center For American Progress: The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest SNAP Cut In The Program’s History

Center For American Progress: “The Senate Has Released Its Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Would Enact The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program’s History According To Center For American Progress Estimates.” “The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program’s history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version’s nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

- **Axios: “The Bill Would Reduce Nutrition Funding, Which Includes SNAP, By Around \$186 Billion Between 2025 And 2034.”** “By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. While analyst’s projections have fluctuated as the legislation’s provisions are tweaked, analysts have indicated millions of people could be cut from SNAP under the work requirement provisions.” [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “House Reconciliation Bill Proposes Deepest SNAP Cut In History, Would Take Food Assistance Away From Millions of Low-Income Families.”** [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/28/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Cut SNAP By Around \$186 Billion. President Trump's massive tax and spending bill, which is advancing through the House after surviving its Republican push through the Senate, would slash food benefits for thousands. The big picture: It would mark a historic cut to the social safety net that Republicans claim weeds out waste, fraud and abuse — but experts say the restructuring of assistance programs could leave more people hungry and uninsured. [...] By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Risked Food Assistance For 55,480 Households In TX-15

According To The U.S. Department Of Agriculture, 55,480 Households Participated In Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In TX-15. [USDA, accessed [5/18/26](#)]

Who Receives SNAP?

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budgets of low-income families so they can purchase healthy food.

In TX District 15, SNAP serves...

55,480
HOUSEHOLDS

[USDA, accessed [5/18/26](#)]

According To The U.S. Department Of Agriculture, 1,178,046 Households Participated In Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In Texas. [USDA, accessed [5/18/26](#)]

Across the State

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS IN TEXAS	HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN SNAP IN TEXAS	PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING IN TEXAS	HOUSEHOLDS IN POVERTY IN TEXAS	HOUSEHOLD POVERTY RATE IN TEXAS
11,449,769	1,178,046	10.3%	1,522,560	13.3%

[USDA, accessed [5/18/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Gave Billions In Tax Breaks To The Ultra-Wealthy At The Expense Of Working Families

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The House-Passed Reconciliation Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026. “The House of Representatives today narrowly passed a massive tax and spending reconciliation bill that now heads to President Trump’s desk. Please see below for a statement from ITEP and our latest updated analysis of how the bill’s tax provisions will affect families at different income levels nationally and in every state. [...] The richest 1 percent of Americans would receive a total of \$117 billion in net tax cuts in 2026. The middle 20 percent of taxpayers on the income scale, a group that has 20 times the number of taxpayers as the richest 1 percent, would receive less than half that much, \$53 billion in net tax cuts that year.” [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, [7/3/24](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill's Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest Giving Them Tax Cuts Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans

The One Big Beautiful Bill's Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest. “The One Big Beautiful Bill includes the largest tax cuts in U.S. history. Whether it’s actually ‘beautiful’ is in the eye of the beholder. At every income level taxes should subside. That’s a big selling point from President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans who pushed the law through Congress with no Democratic support. It will benefit everyone. But the biggest cuts go to the wealthiest taxpayers – the ones who pay the lion’s share of taxes. For most families the savings will be miniscule in comparison, in raw dollars and as a share of income. And millions will lose subsidized health insurance and other benefits. Critics see a plan that widens income inequality and, worse, offsets tax cuts for the wealthy with draconian spending cuts that hit lower-income households.” [Cronkite News, [7/16/25](#)]

The House-Passed Republican Reconciliation Bill Extended The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Which Skewed In Favor Of The Wealthy By Providing Them Tax Cuts That Were Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans. “The tax provisions of the House Republican reconciliation bill double down on the failures of the 2017 tax law, which was skewed in favor of the richest people in the country, further eroded the nation’s revenue base, and didn’t produce the promised economic gains for working people.[1] Instead of changing course and prioritizing people with low and moderate incomes as House Republicans’ rhetoric about supporting hard-pressed working families would suggest, the House Republican tax bill only offers more of the same. The bill is heavily skewed to the wealthy: Under the bill, the top 1 percent of people would receive tax cuts three times the size of those for people with incomes in the bottom 60 percent, measured as a share of after-tax income. (See Figure 1.) The top 0.6 percent of people — the 1.2 million people with annual incomes above \$1 million — would receive more total tax cuts than the 127 million people with incomes below \$100,000. [...] The bill extends and expands the 2017 tax law’s increase in the estate tax exemption, boosting the cut in estate taxes for the 1 in 1,000 wealthiest estates to \$6.3 million.[3] Next year a couple could pass on an estate worth up to \$30 million tax free, \$1.7 million more than under a simple extension of the 2017 law.” [CBPP, [5/22/25](#)]

CBS: “Like Penn Wharton, Other Researchers Have Said The Republican Bill Is Likely To Benefit Wealthy Americans At The Expense Of People Lower Down The Ladder.” “Like Penn Wharton, other researchers have said the Republican bill is likely to benefit wealthy Americans at the expense of people lower down the ladder. The measure would likely reduce the financial resources available to the lowest-earning 10% of U.S. households by \$1,600 per year, or almost 4% of their annual income, according to a report published earlier this month by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. White House officials have previously questioned the CBO's scoring of the bill. But the highest-earning 10% of households would see a gain of \$12,000 per year in resources, while middle-income households would see a gain of \$500 to \$1,000, the CBO projected. Its analysis is based on the bill's tax breaks, as well as reductions for federal programs and reductions in state funds for safety net programs such as Medicaid and food stamps. In considering the impact of higher U.S. debt on future generations, the cost would come in the form of lower wages and higher costs, such as more expensive mortgages, Smetters said.” [CBS News, [6/26/25](#)]

The Hill: “The Republicans’ ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make The Poorest Americans Even Poorer, While Padding The Wallets Of The Highest Earners The Most, According To An Analysis Released Monday By Congress’s Budget Arm.” “The Republicans’ ‘big, beautiful bill’ will make the poorest Americans even poorer, while padding the wallets of the highest earners the most, according to an analysis released Monday by Congress’s budget arm. The assessment, conducted by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) at the request of top Democrats, found that the top 10 percent of earners in the country will see an average boost of \$13,600 per year over the next decade as a direct result of provisions in the law, while the bottom 10 percent will see an average annual decrease of \$1,200. The report challenges the arguments made by President Trump and other Republicans that the massive domestic policy package would benefit workers at all levels of wealth and income. And it’s given fuel to the attacks from Democrats that the legislation was, all along, designed to help the wealthiest people at the expense of the working poor.” [The Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Budget Office Says GOP’s ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make Rich Richer, Poor Poorer.”** [Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Decade

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Ten Years.

“President Donald Trump’s ‘big, beautiful bill,’ which he signed into law this month, will add \$3.4 trillion to the U.S. national debt over the next decade, according to a report the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office published Monday.” [NBC News, [7/21/25](#)]

De La Cruz Voted To Make ICE The Highest-Funded U.S. Law Enforcement Agency And Empowered Them To Arrest And Target Migrants In South Texas, Which Disrupted The Region’s Construction Industry Worsening The Labor Shortage, Prolonged Construction Projects, And Threatened Higher Home Prices

July 2025: Rep. Monica De La Cruz Voted For The One Big Beautiful Bill Act Which Made ICE The Highest-Funded U.S. Law Enforcement Agency

July 2025: Rep. Monica De La Cruz Voted For The One Big Beautiful Bill Act

July 2025: Rep. Monica De La Cruz Voted For The One Big Beautiful Bill Act. “July 3, 2025 — House Vote 190 Fiscal 2025 Budget Reconciliation Measure — Motion to Concur Motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the bill that would permanently extend nearly \$4 trillion in expiring individual and business tax cuts, create several new tax breaks and fund border and immigration enforcement and air traffic control upgrades. It would cut Medicaid and other safety net programs to partly offset the cost. Among other provisions, it would raise the statutory debt ceiling by \$5 trillion and appropriate more than \$448 billion in mandatory funding for Trump administration priorities and other needs, including \$153 billion for defense, \$89 billion for immigration enforcement, and \$89.5 billion for border control and security. It also would increase the state and local tax deduction cap to \$40,000 annually for five years for households making up to \$500,000 a year until 2030, when it would permanently revert to \$10,000. Motion agreed to 218-214. Note: A "yea" was a vote in support of the president's position.” [HR 1, Vote No. 190, [7/3/25](#); CQ, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Empowered Trump’s Mass Deportations

The One Big Beautiful Bill Powered ICE’s New Operations And Was The “Cornerstone” Of Trump’s Promise For The Largest Domestic Operation In American History. “President Donald Trump's border czar Tom Homan visited Capitol Hill just weeks after Inauguration Day, with other administration officials and a singular message: They needed money for the White House's border security and mass deportation agenda. By summer, Congress delivered. The Republican Party's big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts that Trump signed into law July 4 included what's arguably the biggest boost of funds yet to the Department of Homeland Security — nearly \$170 billion, almost double its annual budget. The staggering sum is powering the nation's sweeping new Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations, delivering gripping scenes of people being pulled off city streets and from job sites across the nation — the cornerstone of Trump's promise for the largest domestic deportation operation in American history. Homeland Security confirmed over the weekend ICE is working to set up detention sites at certain military bases.” [WLRN, [8/12/25](#)]

- **WLRN Headline: “Trump’s Big Bill Is Powering His Mass Deportations. Congress Is Starting To Ask Questions.”** [WLRN, [8/12/25](#)]

Trump White House Press Release: “The One Big Beautiful Bill Will Crack Down On Illegal Immigration.” [White House Press Release, [5/17/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made ICE The Highest-Funded U.S. Law Enforcement Agency Giving The Agency \$75 Billion Over Four Years

De La Cruz Voted For The Big Beautiful Bill Which Gave ICE \$75 Billion Over Four Years, \$45 Billion Of Which Was Slated For Increasing ICE's Detention Capabilities To Holding 100,000 People Daily And Deport 1 Million People Yearly. “The One Big Beautiful Bill Act was the legislative foundation of the Trump administration’s mass deportation agenda. De La Cruz voted for it in July 2025. Under the law, ICE received a \$75 billion supplement it can spend over four years, on top of its existing base budget of roughly \$10 billion — nearly tripling the agency’s total annual funding. An additional \$45 billion went toward detention expansion. Former DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said the goal was to hold 100,000 people in custody daily. The Trump administration set a deportation target of one million people per year.” [Migrant Insider, [4/7/26](#)]

- **Migrant Insider Headline: “She Funded the Machine That Took Them.”** [Migrant Insider, [4/7/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made ICE The Highest-Funded U.S. Law Enforcement Agency. “Just 10 years ago, the annual budget for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, was less than \$6 billion — notably smaller than other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security. But ICE's budget has skyrocketed during President Trump's second term, becoming the highest-funded U.S. law enforcement agency, with \$85 billion now at its disposal. The windfall is thanks to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, enacted last July. After hovering around the \$10 billion mark for years, ICE's budget suddenly benefited from a meteoric spike.” [NPR, [1/21/26](#)]

- **NPR Headline: “How ICE Grew To Be The Highest-Funded U.S. Law Enforcement Agency.”** [NPR, [1/21/26](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Gave ICE \$75 Billion Over Four Years. “Just 10 years ago, the annual budget for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, was less than \$6 billion — notably smaller than other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security. But ICE's budget has skyrocketed during President Trump's second term, becoming the highest-funded U.S. law enforcement agency, with \$85 billion now at its disposal. The windfall is thanks to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, enacted last July. After hovering around the \$10 billion mark for years, ICE's budget suddenly benefited from a meteoric spike. [...] The biggest piece of the pie for enforcement operations in the United States will go to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to arrest, detain, and deport immigrants. Congress gave ICE \$75 billion over four years, approximately \$18.7 billion each year. Added to the \$10 billion Congress already appropriated ICE for fiscal year 2025 in March, ICE now has \$28.7 billion at its disposal this year. That \$28.7 billion figure is nearly triple ICE’s entire budget for FY24.” [Brennan Center, [8/13/25](#)]

- **Brennan Center: The Largest Percentage Increase For ICE Goes To Finding, Arresting, Detaining, And Deporting Immigrants Already Living In The U.S.** “The so-called One Big Beautiful Act allocates more than \$170 billion over four years for border and interior enforcement, with a stated goal of deporting 1 million immigrants each year. That is more than the yearly budget for all local and state law enforcement agencies combined across the entire United States. The bill adds billions of dollars to border enforcement, but the largest percentage increase goes to finding, arresting, detaining, and deporting immigrants already living in the U.S., most of whom have not committed a crime and many of whom have had lawful status.” [Brennan Center, [8/13/25](#)]
- **Brennan Center: Two-Thirds Of ICE’s Funding Will Be Used To Detain Immigrants.** “Two-thirds of ICE’s funding – \$45 billion over four years – will be used to detain immigrants, potentially more than 100,000 people per year. The \$11.25 billion added to ICE’s annual detention budget is a 400% increase from last year and exceeds the Department of Justice budget request for Fiscal Year 2026 for the entire federal prison system, which holds 155,000 people.” [Brennan Center, [8/13/25](#)]
- **Brennan Center: The One Big Beautiful Bill Allowed ICE To Build More Facilities And Hire 10,000 New Officers.** “The law explicitly allows ICE to build more facilities to jail families, often mothers with their children, and does not align with a decades-old settlement that addresses the treatment of immigrant

children. The budget also gives approximately \$30 billion over four years to ICE to track down, arrest, and deport immigrants, allowing it to hire 10,000 new officers. That amount is a 300% increase over ICE's entire \$10 billion prior-year budget." [Brennan Center, [8/13/25](#)]

- **Brennan Center Headline: "Big Budget Act Creates a 'Deportation-Industrial Complex.'" [Brennan Center, [8/13/25](#)]**

The One Big Beautiful Bill Allocated More Than \$170 Billion For Border And Interior Enforcement Which Included \$50,000 Signing Bonuses For New ICE Agents

The One Big Beautiful Bill Allocated More Than \$170 Billion For Border And Interior Enforcement. "The so-called One Big Beautiful Act allocates more than \$170 billion over four years for border and interior enforcement, with a stated goal of deporting 1 million immigrants each year. That is more than the yearly budget for all local and state law enforcement agencies combined across the entire United States. The bill adds billions of dollars to border enforcement, but the largest percentage increase goes to finding, arresting, detaining, and deporting immigrants already living in the U.S., most of whom have not committed a crime and many of whom have had lawful status." [Brennan Center, [8/13/25](#)]

Congress Approved \$170 Billion For Border And Interior Enforcement Which Included \$50,000 Signing Bonuses For New ICE Agents. "But the second Trump administration has been even more aggressive in clamping down on undocumented immigrants in the nation's interior, setting a goal for ICE of at least 3,000 arrests a day. The data show that in the first six months of this term, ICE averaged 727 arrests a day, more than doubling the 304 daily arrests under Biden. To help meet that goal, Congress approved \$170 billion for immigration enforcement in July aimed at expanding immigrant detention centers and hiring as many as 10,000 additional ICE agents by the end of the year — which would more than double its current staffing of 6,500 agents — and enticing recruits with a \$50,000 signing bonus." [Texas Tribune, [11/3/25](#)]

2025-2026: ICE Increasingly Targeted And Arrested Migrants With No Criminal Records, With A Quarter Of All ICE Arrests Occurring In Texas, Where South Texas Alone Witnessed 9,100 ICE Arrests

2025-2026: ICE Increasingly Targeted And Arrested Migrants With No Criminal Records

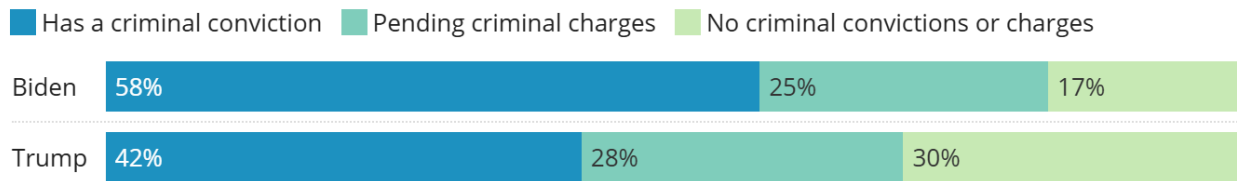
NPR Headline: "ICE Has Arrested Scores Of Migrants In The U.S. Who Have No Criminal Records." [NPR, [2/5/25](#)]

2025: Under Trump, Over Half Of ICE Arrests Did Not Have A Criminal Record. "During last year's presidential campaign, Trump promised 'the largest deportation program of criminals in the history of America,' and administration officials have repeatedly said they are going after 'the worst of the worst.' But during its first six months, the data show that the Trump administration has been arresting more people who don't have a criminal record than the Biden administration did in its final 18 months. In Texas, 58% of people ICE arrested under Biden had criminal convictions, compared to 42% under Trump, according to the data, which doesn't specify the type or seriousness of those crimes." [Texas Tribune, [11/3/25](#)]

Under The Trump Administration The Percentage Of ICE Arrestees With No Criminal Convictions Or Charges Doubled. "Under the Trump administration, a smaller percentage of Texans arrested by ICE have criminal convictions when compared to the Biden administration. The percentage of arrestees with no criminal convictions or charges has almost doubled." [Texas Tribune, [11/3/25](#)]

ICE arresting more Texans with no criminal convictions

Under the Trump administration, a smaller percentage of Texans arrested by ICE have criminal convictions when compared to the Biden administration. The percentage of arrestees with no criminal convictions or charges has almost doubled.



Note: Data is from September 2023 until late July 2025 – roughly 16 months of arrests under the Biden administration and about 6 months of arrests under the Trump administration.

Source: [ICE data provided to the Deportation Data Project](#)

Credit: Carla Astudillo

[Texas Tribune, [11/3/25](#)]

April 2026: Federal Immigration Officers Continued To Target Large Numbers Of Immigrants With No Criminal Record. “Federal immigration officers continued to target large numbers of immigrants with no criminal record in the weeks after two U.S. citizens were shot and killed in Minneapolis, newly released government data shows, despite statements from Trump administration leaders indicating they wanted to take a more targeted approach. [...] U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement data obtained through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the Deportation Data Project indicates that arrest numbers have dropped. ICE averaged about 7,000 arrests a week in the six weeks since Alex Pretti was shot and killed on Jan. 24 — down from 9,000 earlier in January. But a Washington Post analysis of the data shows that people with no criminal record still make up the largest share of those detained. In all, 42 percent of those detained in the six weeks after Pretti’s death had no criminal record. That is a slight drop from the six weeks that preceded his death, when that figure was 46 percent. Thirty percent had prior convictions and 29 percent had pending charges in the latter weeks.” [Washington Post, [4/3/26](#)]

- **Washington Post Headline: “Despite Signaling Change, ICE Still Arrests Many Immigrants With No Record.”** [Washington Post, [4/3/26](#)]

January-July 2025: Nearly A Quarter Of All ICE Arrests Nationwide Occurred In Texas

January-July 2025: Nearly A Quarter Of All ICE Arrests Nationwide Occurred In Texas. “From Trump’s inauguration to July 29, ICE made 138,068 arrests nationwide, 24% of them in Texas. The Tribune analyzed ICE’s enforcement data from September 2023 to late July 2025, comparing the last 18 months of the Biden administration with the first six months of the Trump administration’s second term. The data, obtained through a public records request to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security by the Deportation Data Project, a group of immigration lawyers and professors, shows that in Texas: ICE’s average daily arrests have more than doubled from 85 under Biden to 176 under Trump.” [Texas Tribune, [11/3/25](#)]

- **Texas Tribune Headline: “New Data Shows 1 In 4 ICE Arrests Happened In Texas Under Trump’s Immigration Crackdown.”** [Texas Tribune, [11/3/25](#)]

South Texas Witnessed 9,100 ICE Arrests, Nearly One-Fifth Of Statewide ICE Arrests

South Texas Witnessed 9,100 ICE Arrests, Nearly One-Fifth Of Statewide ICE Arrests. “The Rio Grande Valley has been particularly affected. ICE made 9,100 arrests in South Texas last year, nearly one-fifth of statewide

arrests. Guerrero criticized some enforcement practices, noting that people with proper documentation were sometimes detained without judicial warrants.” [KVUE, [1/15/26](#)]

Aggressive Immigration Enforcement Was Disrupting The South Texas Construction Industry, Worsening The Already Deep Labor Shortage, Prolonging Work Projects, And Decreasing Construction Activity By 30% To 40%

Texas Construction Leaders Said Increased Immigration Enforcement Was Disrupting Their Industry

KVUE: Texas Construction Leaders Said Increased Immigration Enforcement Was Upending Their Industry. “Texas construction leaders say increased immigration enforcement is upending their industry. The raids Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have carried out and the fear of more are having a chilling effect, forcing some projects to slow down. Construction leaders are now turning to elected officials for help in changing immigration laws. ‘There’s a bunch of fear in not just the workers, but also the community,’ said Mario Guerrero, the executive director of the South Texas Builders Association.” [KVUE, [1/15/26](#)]

- **KVUE: Even Workers With Proper Documentation Were Hesitant To Report To Work.** “Increased immigration enforcement in Texas is creating significant challenges for the construction industry, according to local leaders. ICE raids and the fear of additional enforcement actions are causing workers to avoid job sites, slowing down projects, and prompting the industry to turn to lawmakers for policy solutions. [...] The shortage of workers is affecting projects across the state. Even workers with proper documentation are hesitant to report to work, creating bottlenecks in industries such as construction and hospitality. Normally, a basic 2,100-square-foot home with a two-car garage would take three to four months to complete, Guerrero said. Now, similar projects are taking nine to 11 months.” [KVUE, [1/15/26](#)]
- **KVUE Headline: “Texas Construction Leaders Say Immigration Enforcement Is Shrinking The Workforce, Slowing Down Projects.”** [KVUE, [1/15/26](#)]
- **Latin Times Headline: “Construction Leaders In Texas Warn ICE Raids Are Driving Workers Underground: ‘There’s No Labor.’”** [Latin Times, [12/30/25](#)]
- **Texas Tribune: “‘Construction Can’t Continue’: South Texas Builders Say ICE Arrests Have Upended Industry.”** [Texas Tribune, [12/24/25](#)]

Wall Street Journal: Building Projects Were Sitting Empty In South Texas Because Of Federal Immigration Raids

Wall Street Journal: Building Projects Were Sitting Empty In South Texas Because Of Federal Immigration Raids. “At Monte Cielo, a new housing development in this growing region of South Texas, half-built homes are sitting empty. On a recent day, just a few workers hovered behind temporary wrap tacked to wall frames. The quiet scene comes after federal immigration agents have hit the development repeatedly, carrying out at least half a dozen raids there in recent months, builders said. The most recent was a few weeks ago. Some eight workers were arrested in a chaotic scene of laborers running away from federal vehicles racing through the three-street subdivision at high speed, the builders said. The result? Homes are months behind schedule, and contractors face an uphill battle to recruit more workers to finish them. [...] The situation is becoming familiar across the Rio Grande Valley, where trade groups are raising alarms about aggressive immigration enforcement wreaking economic havoc. Construction delays threaten higher prices for buyers and lower margins for builders. Some builders said they just hope to break even on delayed projects. Materials suppliers are laying off employees. One local concrete company filed for bankruptcy protection, citing a drop-off in sales because of immigration raids as the reason.” [Wall Street Journal, [2/9/26](#)]

Construction Projects Were Months Behind Schedule Because Of Immigration Raids

Wall Street Journal: Builders Said Homes Were Months Behind Schedule And Had An Uphill Battle Recruiting New Workers.

“At Monte Cielo, a new housing development in this growing region of South Texas, half-built homes are sitting empty. On a recent day, just a few workers hovered behind temporary wrap tacked to wall frames. The quiet scene comes after federal immigration agents have hit the development repeatedly, carrying out at least half a dozen raids there in recent months, builders said. The most recent was a few weeks ago. Some eight workers were arrested in a chaotic scene of laborers running away from federal vehicles racing through the three-street subdivision at high speed, the builders said. The result? Homes are months behind schedule, and contractors face an uphill battle to recruit more workers to finish them. [...] The situation is becoming familiar across the Rio Grande Valley, where trade groups are raising alarms about aggressive immigration enforcement wreaking economic havoc. Construction delays threaten higher prices for buyers and lower margins for builders. Some builders said they just hope to break even on delayed projects. Materials suppliers are laying off employees. One local concrete company filed for bankruptcy protection, citing a drop-off in sales because of immigration raids as the reason.” [Wall Street Journal, [2/9/26](#)]

- **KVUE: Immigration Raids Were Prolonging Projects That Normal Took Three To Four Months To Nine To Eleven Months.** “Increased immigration enforcement in Texas is creating significant challenges for the construction industry, according to local leaders. ICE raids and the fear of additional enforcement actions are causing workers to avoid job sites, slowing down projects, and prompting the industry to turn to lawmakers for policy solutions. [...] The shortage of workers is affecting projects across the state. Even workers with proper documentation are hesitant to report to work, creating bottlenecks in industries such as construction and hospitality. Normally, a basic 2,100-square-foot home with a two-car garage would take three to four months to complete, Guerrero said. Now, similar projects are taking nine to 11 months.” [KVUE, [1/15/26](#)]

Aggressive Immigration Enforcement In South Texas Was Adding To The Deep Labor Deficit

Spectrum News 1: “After Years Of A Labor Shortage Across The Nation, Home Builders In South Texas Are Not Shying Away From Saying That Aggressive Immigration Enforcement Is Adding To That Deep Labor Deficit.” “After years of a labor shortage across the nation, home builders in South Texas are not shying away from saying that aggressive immigration enforcement is adding to that deep labor deficit. ‘Nowhere to be found,’ said Alexis Hernandez, owner of Treasure Builders. Hernandez needs workers, and he says they’re hard to find. The most recent numbers from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show 600,000 unfilled positions within the Texas labor force. Health care, education and construction are the most severely impacted, and Hernandez knows that firsthand. ‘Usually, our painting crews are 10-12 guys,’ he said. ‘I have one guy on this one.’ Texas officials, together with colleges, trade schools and public schools, are looking for a fix to the labor shortage.” [Spectrum News 1, [3/30/26](#)]

- **Spectrum Local News Headline: “South Texas Builders, Educators Look To Tackle Labor Shortage Amid Immigration Enforcement.”** [Spectrum Local News, [3/30/26](#)]

President And CEO Of Valley Land Title Company Said He Received A Call From A Builder That ICE Took 18 Workers On Site. “Paul Rodriguez, president and CEO of Valley Land Title Company, who has offices in Mission, Edinburg, Weslaco and McAllen, corroborated that construction loans are experiencing a significant drop, roughly 30% to 40%. ‘Just last week I was visiting the CEO of another bank, very active, and he was telling me how he had just gotten a call from one of his builders — that they had 18 construction workers picked up on site,’ Rodriguez said. ‘The numbers are real. The people are real. The impact is there,’ he added.” [MyRGV, [1/20/26](#)]

South Texas Builder Association Leader Mario Guerrero Criticized ICE For Detaining People Without Judicial Warrants, Including People With Proper Documentation. “Guerrero criticized some enforcement practices, noting that people with proper documentation were sometimes detained without judicial warrants. ‘It would be one thing if they’re showing up with a warrant, and a judge signs that warrant, and they’re saying, ‘Hey, I’m looking for X, Y and Z,’ Guerrero said. ‘But that’s not what’s happening when they’re showing up and they’re questioning everybody, even if you do have proper documentation.’” [KVUE, [1/15/26](#)]

Q3 2025: The Rio Grande Valley Experienced A 5% Drop In Construction Jobs

Dallas Federal Reserve: The Rio Grande Valley Experienced A 5% Drop In Construction Jobs In The Third Quarter Of 2025, The Largest Decline Among Major Regional Industries. “According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the Valley experienced a 5% drop in construction jobs in the third quarter of 2025, the largest decline among major regional industries. The construction sector heavily relies on immigrant labor. The American Immigrant Council reports that in 2022, over 507,700 immigrants worked in construction—40% of all industry employees—with approximately 295,400 undocumented workers, or 23.3% of the workforce.” [KVUE, [1/15/26](#)]

- **Brownsville Herald Headline: “Rio Grande Valley Builders Ask For Immediate Pause On Worksite ICE Raids”** [Brownsville Herald, [1/20/26](#)]

The South Texas Builders Association Approximated A 30% To 40% Drop In Construction Activity In The Region

The South Texas Builders Association Approximated A 30% To 40% Drop In Construction Activity In The Region, And Asked For An Immediate Pause On ICE Worksite Enforcement. “Monday morning, on Martin Luther King Day, the South Texas Builders Association (STBA) held a symposium discussing how amped-up Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity has impacted the construction industry regionally. [...] STBA CEO Mario Guerrero emphasized that every elected official in the region was sent an invitation, but only a small fraction showed up on Monday. In the course of the meeting, multiple business owners approximated a 30% to 40% drop in construction activity regionally and STBA board members asked for an immediate pause on worksite immigration enforcement.” [MyRGV, [1/20/26](#)]

- **MyRGV Headline: “Rio Grande Valley Builders Ask For Immediate Pause On Worksite ICE Raids.”** [MyRGV, [1/20/26](#)]

Valley Land Title President And CEO Paul Rodriguez: Construction Loans Were Experiencing A 30% To 40% Drop. “Paul Rodriguez, president and CEO of Valley Land Title Company, who has offices in Mission, Edinburg, Weslaco and McAllen, corroborated that construction loans are experiencing a significant drop, roughly 30% to 40%.” [MyRGV, [1/20/26](#)]

- **Lone Star National Bank Chief Lending Officer Seby Haddad Warned He Was Seeing A Drop In Demand For Construction Lending, Which Represented 93% Of The Bank’s \$600 Million Annual Loans To Local Businesses.** “Seby Haddad, a former McAllen city commissioner and chief lending officer at Lone Star National Bank, explained that 93% of the \$600 million the bank annually loans to local business goes to construction, land development and real estate investments. However, he said they have recently seen a drop in demand. ‘Which obviously means less and less investment in the region,’ said Haddad. ‘I think the issues with labor are causing almost ‘risk’ pricing for the contractor. ... As things escalate, it’s only going to force banks to tighten up. It’s going to reduce not only access to capital across the board, but it’s going to elevate the risk of foreclosure.’ ‘We are a border community. We want to see the people in our community treated with dignity and respect. And we want to see people willing to work, given an opportunity,’ he said.” [MyRGV, [1/20/26](#)]

2026: Immigration Raids Causing Construction Delays Were Impacting The South Texas Economy Threatening Higher Home Prices And Forcing Suppliers To Lay Off Employees

Wall Street Journal: Construction Delays From The Immigration Raids Threatened Higher Prices For Buyers

Wall Street Journal: Construction Delays From The Immigration Raids Threatened Higher Prices For Buyers. “At Monte Cielo, a new housing development in this growing region of South Texas, half-built homes are sitting empty. On a recent day, just a few workers hovered behind temporary wrap tacked to wall frames. The quiet scene comes after federal immigration agents have hit the development repeatedly, carrying out at least half a dozen

raids there in recent months, builders said. The most recent was a few weeks ago. Some eight workers were arrested in a chaotic scene of laborers running away from federal vehicles racing through the three-street subdivision at high speed, the builders said. The result? Homes are months behind schedule, and contractors face an uphill battle to recruit more workers to finish them. [...] The situation is becoming familiar across the Rio Grande Valley, where trade groups are raising alarms about aggressive immigration enforcement wreaking economic havoc. Construction delays threaten higher prices for buyers and lower margins for builders. Some builders said they just hope to break even on delayed projects. Materials suppliers are laying off employees. One local concrete company filed for bankruptcy protection, citing a drop-off in sales because of immigration raids as the reason.” [Wall Street Journal, [2/9/26](#)]

Wall Street Journal: “Immigration Raids In South Texas Are Starting To Hit The Economy.” [Wall Street Journal, [2/9/26](#)]

Wall Street Journal: Construction Delays Were Forcing Suppliers To Lay Off Employees

Wall Street Journal: Construction Delays Were Forcing Suppliers To Lay Off Employees. “At Monte Cielo, a new housing development in this growing region of South Texas, half-built homes are sitting empty. On a recent day, just a few workers hovered behind temporary wrap tacked to wall frames. The quiet scene comes after federal immigration agents have hit the development repeatedly, carrying out at least half a dozen raids there in recent months, builders said. The most recent was a few weeks ago. Some eight workers were arrested in a chaotic scene of laborers running away from federal vehicles racing through the three-street subdivision at high speed, the builders said. The result? Homes are months behind schedule, and contractors face an uphill battle to recruit more workers to finish them. [...] The situation is becoming familiar across the Rio Grande Valley, where trade groups are raising alarms about aggressive immigration enforcement wreaking economic havoc. Construction delays threaten higher prices for buyers and lower margins for builders. Some builders said they just hope to break even on delayed projects. Materials suppliers are laying off employees. One local concrete company filed for bankruptcy protection, citing a drop-off in sales because of immigration raids as the reason.” [Wall Street Journal, [2/9/26](#)]

De La Cruz Was Late To Respond To ICE’s Arrest And Detention Of Three McAllen Mariachi Students She Paraded Around Washington, DC

2025: De La Cruz Invited McAllen’s Mariachi Oro Group To Washington, DC

May 2025: De La Cruz Said She Was Working To Ensure That Mariachi Oro’s Time In Washington Was “Memorable”

De La Cruz Said Her Office Was Working To Make The Mariachi Oro’s Visit To Washington, D.C. “Memorable.” “Planning is underway for @McallenHigh's Mariachi Oro to visit Washington, D.C.! Our office met with Superintendent Dr. Rene Gutierrez to discuss how we can make their time in the capital memorable.” [X, @RepMonicaDLC, [5/21/25](#)]



[X, @RepMonicaDLC, [5/21/25](#)]

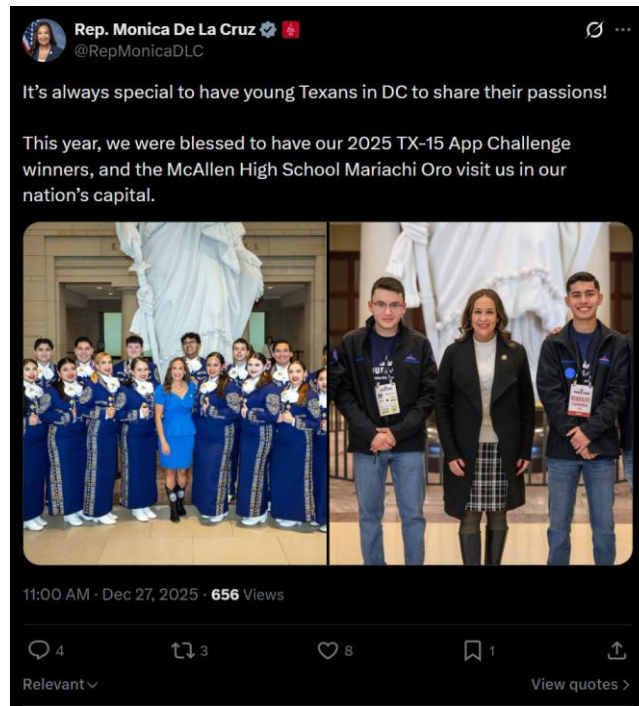
June 2025: De La Cruz Recognized Mariachi Oro On The House Floor And Praised Their Contributions To Tejano Culture

De La Cruz: “I Am Honored To Have The Students And Directors Here Today To Share The Culture And Music Of The Rio Grande Valley. Congratulations, Mariachi Oro! Your Community Is So Proud Of Your Hard Work, Talent And Dedication.” “I rise today to congratulate McAllen High School Mariachi Oro for winning their eighth Texas Association of Mariachi Educators State Championship and tenth consecutive UIL State Mariachi Festival Division 1 Sweepstakes. At the start of this year, many of the musicians were new to the band and the team was seen as the underdogs of the competition. Through dedication and daily practices, they worked together to secure these highly competitive titles. Their vibrant performances capture the spirit of Tejano music and continues to impress audiences nationwide. I am honored to have the students and directors here today to share the culture and music of the Rio Grande Valley. Congratulations, Mariachi Oro! Your community is so proud of your hard work, talent and dedication. Thank you, and I yield back.” [Rep. De La Cruz Press Release, [6/10/25](#)]

Mariachi Oro Won 8 Texas Association Of Mariachi Educators State Championships. “McAllen High’s Mariachi Oro has established itself as one of the premier mariachi programs in the state, with their recent 8th Texas Association of Mariachi Educators (TEMA) state championship serving as a testament to the winning culture that was planted over a decade ago.” [MyRGV, [4/18/25](#)]

- **Mariachi Oro Won 8 State Championships In 11 Years, And Achieved 10 Consecutive University Interscholastic League Mariachi Honors.** “Coming back to his alma mater in 2007, Mariachi Oro’s Head Director Alex Trevino has helped cultivate the program that has achieved 10 straight University Interscholastic League Mariachi honors in a row and their 8th TEMA state championship in 11 years last week in San Antonio.” [MyRGV, [4/18/25](#)]

De La Cruz: “This Year, We Were Blessed To Have Our 2025 TX-15 App Challenge Winners, And The McAllen High School Mariachi Oro Visit Us In Our Nation’s Capital.” “It’s always special to have young Texans in DC to share their passions! This year, we were blessed to have our 2025 TX-15 App Challenge winners, and the McAllen High School Mariachi Oro visit us in our nation’s capital.” [X, @RepMonicaDLC, [12/27/25](#)]



[X, @RepMonicaDLC, [12/27/25](#)]

February 2026: ICE Detained Mariachi Oro Members Of The Gámez-Cuéllar Family Despite Having No Criminal Record And Attending Every Immigration Court Date And Check-In With ICE

ICE Detained Two Siblings Of The Mariachi Oro Group Along With Their Parents And Younger Brother And Separated Them Between The Dilley And Raymondville ICE Detention Centers

February 2026: ICE Detained The Gámez-Cuéllar Family During A Regular ICE Check-In. “ipartisan concern greeted news this weekend of three McAllen ISD students and their parents being detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a family that’s since been separated and are now being held in different immigration detention centers. Siblings Antonio, 18, Caleb, 14, and Joshua Gámez-Cuéllar, 12, along with their parents Emma Guadalupe Cuéllar Lopez and Luis Antonio Gámez Martinez were detained by ICE in February, according to a GoFundMe page garnering support for the family. The page was organized by Ezra Cavazos, Antonio’s girlfriend, and Denise Robles, a cousin. Antonio and Caleb are part of McAllen High’s Mariachi Oro and Joshua is involved in his middle school mariachi program. The family had been in the middle of an asylum process and were attending their immigration court hearings and regular check-ins for more than two years before being detained, according to Cavazos and Robles. But on Wednesday, Feb. 25, they said ICE agents detained the family and placed them in two different detention centers — Antonio at the El Valle Detention Facility in Raymondville, and Caleb and Joshua at the Dilley Immigration Processing Center in Dilley, where their parents are also being held. Cavazos and Robles reasoned the separation was due to Antonio turning 18.” [MyRGV, [3/7/26](#)]

Two Student Siblings In McAllen, Texas Were Arrested, Detained, And Separated By ICE To The Dilley And ICE Detention Centers. “Please excuse the very long post. This is an urgent story I want to share more quickly than I can in a news outlet. For more than four years, I’ve been chronicling the rich, beautiful world of school mariachis on the South Texas border, immersing myself in their hometowns and following the students to the many school concerts, community performances and high-stakes competitions that form the rhythm of the school year. In November 2022, I published ‘A Championship Season in Mariachi Country’ for the New York Times Magazine, and now I’m writing a book for Henry Holt. Last week, this wondrous world collided with the political moment. Three mariachi students from McAllen, Texas — siblings in sixth, ninth and twelfth grades — were detained by ICE along with their parents and now sit in immigration detention centers in Dilley and Raymondville, Texas.” [Facebook, Cecilia Balli, [3/7/26](#)]

- **The Gámez-Cuéllar Parents And Minor Children Were Taken To Dilley, And Their 18 Year-Old Son To Raymondville.** “But last week, the parents were summoned to appear at the ICE offices and bring their sons with them. When the family appeared as instructed, on Wednesday, Feb. 25, two ICE agents told them they were being detained. They were placed in custody and transferred to two different detention centers. The parents and two younger boys, Caleb Gámez-Cuéllar and Joshua Gámez-Cuéllar, ages 14 and 12, respectively, were taken to the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, which houses families. But because their older son, Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar, had turned 18 the month before, and there is no holding unit for adult males in Dilley, he was sent to a separate detention center, the El Valle Detention Facility in Raymondville.” [Facebook, Cecilia Balli, [3/7/26](#)]

The Gámez-Cuéllar Family Entered The US In 2023 Under CBP One, Requested Asylum, And Reportedly Attended Every Court Date and Check-In With ICE, And Had A Final Pending Immigration Hearing In September 2026. “San Antonio-based journalist and anthropologist Cecilia Balli has reported on the Gámez-Cuéllar case. She has been chronicling school mariachis on the South Texas border for the past four years. In November 2022, she published ‘A Championship Season in Mariachi Country’ for the New York Times Magazine, and is currently writing a book on the topic. Balli said the Gámez-Cuéllar family came to the United States legally in May 2023 through the CBP One process while seeking asylum after fleeing violence in their home region of Mexico. She said they passed a credible fear screening and followed the legal immigration process, attending all required ICE check-ins and court appointments. Their final immigration hearing is scheduled for September 2026.” [Rio Grande Guardian, [3/9/26](#)]

Cecilia Balli: The Gámez-Cuéllar Family Had No Criminal History In Either Mexico And The United States. “This is a family that did everything according to the law and has no criminal history in either country. The boys descend from longtime mariachi families in Mexico, where they had already started learning to play their instruments. While the move to this country disrupted their lives, as they learned a new language and navigated American schools, they found belonging and thrived in mariachi director Alex Treviño’s program at McAllen High School and Travis Middle School. As members of McAllen High School’s Mariachi Oro — an award-winning group that has clinched the state championship in their division eight times — the two older boys had gotten to play at Carnegie Hall in June 2024 and on Capitol Hill last summer, where the mariachi was recognized before Congress for their record of achievement and toured the White House.” [Facebook, Cecilia Balli, [3/7/26](#)]

- **Cecilia Balli Was An Independent Journalist Covering Highschool Mariachis In South Texas, Her Work Has Been Featured In Texas Monthly, New York Times and New York Times Magazine.** “Hello and welcome! I’m a writer, journalist and cultural anthropologist. I’ve written for magazines for twenty-five years and was an anthropology professor at the University of Texas at Austin for six years. I was a writer-at-large at Texas Monthly for two decades, and have also written stories for The New York Times Magazine, The New York Times, Harper’s Magazine, and the Columbia Journalism Review. I’m currently writing a book about high school mariachis on the South Texas border. I’m also a research and storytelling consultant.” [Cecilia Balli Website, accessed [3/11/26](#)]

Two Gámez-Cuéllar Siblings Performed Mariachi In The Capitol And Toured Trump’s White House

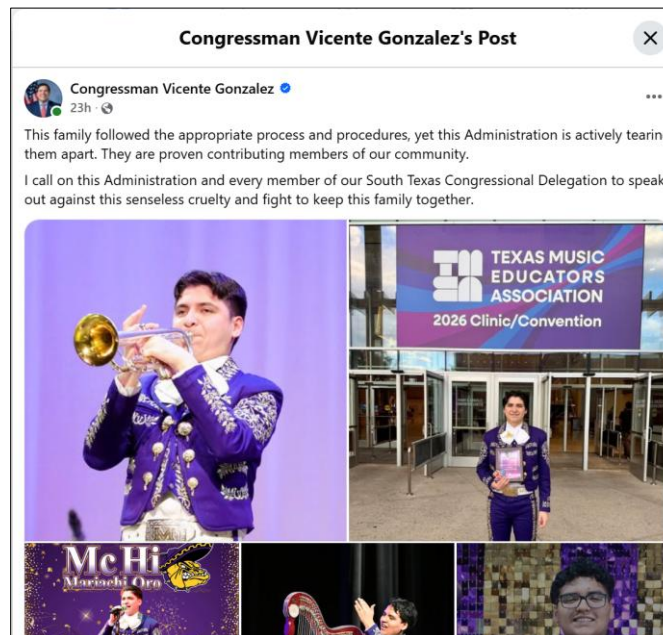
The Students’ Mariachi Oro Group Played On Capitol Hill In Summer 2025, Where They Were Recognized For An Award, And Toured The Trump White House. “This is a family that did everything according to the law and has no criminal history in either country. The boys descend from longtime mariachi families in Mexico, where they had already started learning to play their instruments. While the move to this country disrupted their lives, as they learned a new language and navigated American schools, they found belonging and thrived in mariachi director Alex Treviño’s program at McAllen High School and Travis Middle School. As members of McAllen High School’s Mariachi Oro — an award-winning group that has clinched the state championship in their division eight times — the two older boys had gotten to play at Carnegie Hall in June 2024 and on Capitol Hill last summer, where the mariachi was recognized before Congress for their record of achievement and toured the White House.” [Facebook, Cecilia Balli, [3/7/26](#)]

March 2026: South Texas Democrats Bobby Pulido And Rep. Vicente Gonzalez Spoke Out On Behalf Of The Family Before Rep. De La Cruz

11:30AM CT - Rep. Gonzalez Called On Every Member Of The South Texas Delegation To Fight To Keep The Gámez-Cuéllar Family Together

Rep. Gonzalez: “This Family Followed The Appropriate Process And Procedures, Yet This Administration Is Actively Tearing Them Apart.” “This family followed the appropriate process and procedures, yet this Administration is actively tearing them apart. They are proven contributing members of our community. I call on this Administration and every member of our South Texas Congressional Delegation to speak out against this senseless cruelty and fight to keep this family together.” [Facebook, Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, [3/7/26](#)]

Rep. Gonzalez: “I Call On This Administration And Every Member Of Our South Texas Congressional Delegation To Speak Out Against This Senseless Cruelty And Fight To Keep This Family Together.” “This family followed the appropriate process and procedures, yet this Administration is actively tearing them apart. They are proven contributing members of our community. I call on this Administration and every member of our South Texas Congressional Delegation to speak out against this senseless cruelty and fight to keep this family together.” [Facebook, Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, [3/7/26](#)]



[Facebook, Congressman Vicente Gonzalez, [3/7/26](#)]

1:52PM CT - Candidate Bobby Pulido: “These Mariachi Students Were Good Enough For Monica De La Cruz’s Photo Ops. Now They’re In Detention Centers And She’s Nowhere To Be Found.”

Pulido Slammed Rep. De La Cruz For Inviting The Students To DC For Photo Ops But Remaining Silent After They Were Detained By ICE. “These Mariachi students from McAllen were good enough for Monica De La Cruz’s photo ops. Now they’re in detention centers and she’s nowhere to be found. South Texas notices.” [Facebook, Bobby Pulido for Texas, [3/7/26](#)]



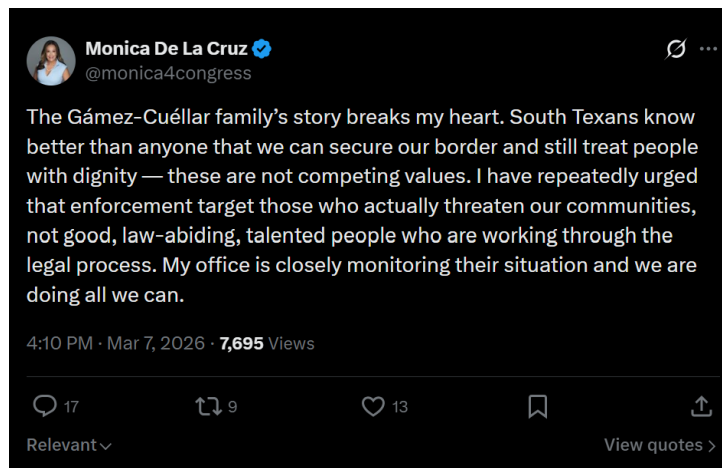
[Facebook, Bobby Pulido for Texas, [3/7/26](#)]

Pulido: “This Is A Family That Came Here Through The Legal Process. They Passed Their Credible Fear Interview. They Showed Up To Every Single Court Date, Every Check In. They Followed The Rules. They’re Doing It The Right Way, And Now They’re Being Torn Apart.” “I need to say something about what's happening to three students from McAllen, Texas, because what's going on right now with the musicians from Mariachi de Oro is not right. These are good kids, talented kids, mariachi students who have represented South Texas with pride on some of the biggest stages in this country. One of them, Antonio is a senior in high school, first chair trumpet in the entire state of Texas, a few months away from graduating. Right now, he's sitting alone in a detention center in Raymondville, Texas. His parents and his little brothers are locked up in Dilley. This is a family that came here through the legal process. They passed their credible fear interview. They showed up to every single court date, every check in. They followed the rules. They're doing it the right way, and now they're being torn apart.” [Rio Grande Guardian, [3/9/26](#)]

Pulido Blasted Rep. De La Cruz For Treating The Kids As “Good Enough To Stand Next To For Photos” But Being Absent After They Were Detained By ICE. “But here's what really bothers me. Congresswoman Monica de la Cruz was more than happy to invite these kids to Washington when it looked good politically. They toured the White House, they played on national stages, and they were good enough to stand next to for photos, good enough to celebrate when the cameras were rolling. But now that they need help, now that they're sitting in detention centers, where is Monica de la Cruz? I'll tell you where she is. She's hiding in the gated community where she lives, hoping that this story doesn't get traction.” [Rio Grande Guardian, [3/9/26](#)]

3:10PM CT – De La Cruz Said Her Office Was “Closely Monitoring” The Gámez-Cuéllar Family’s “Situation”

De La Cruz: “The Gámez-Cuéllar Family’s Story Breaks My Heart... My Office Is Closely Monitoring Their Situation And We Are Doing All We Can.” “The Gámez-Cuéllar family’s story breaks my heart. South Texans know better than anyone that we can secure our border and still treat people with dignity — these are not competing values. I have repeatedly urged that enforcement target those who actually threaten our communities, not good, law-abiding, talented people who are working through the legal process. My office is closely monitoring their situation and we are doing all we can.” [X, @monica4congress, [3/7/26](#)]



[X, @monica4congress, 3/7/26]

7:11PM CT - De La Cruz's Office "Requested A Visit" To The Raymondville ICE Facility

De La Cruz Merely "Requested" A Visit To The Raymondville ICE Facility Where The Elder Gámez-Cuéllar Sibling Was Held. "I have been in close communication with DHS, ICE, Border Patrol, and community stakeholders regarding the Gámez-Cuéllar family. As we explore every available option to assist them, my office has requested a visit to the detention facility in Raymondville. I will continue to provide updates as they become available." [X, @RepMonicaDLC, 3/7/26]



[X, @RepMonicaDLC, 3/7/26]

Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar's Girlfriend, Ezra Cavazos, Said De La Cruz's Office Told Her There Was Little It Could Do To Help

De La Cruz's Office Was Unhelpful To The Gámez-Cuéllar Family After ICE Detained Them, Telling Antonio's Girlfriend Erica Cavazos There Was Little The Office Could Do To Help. "The night before their immigration appointment, the Gámez-Cuéllar family began preparing for the possibility they might not return home. Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar handed his watch to his girlfriend, Ezra Cavazos. His mother left apartment keys and a few 'precious' belongings with her. [...] When Antonio called Cavazos from detention, hearing his voice lit a fire. She and her parents began calling relatives, mariachi instructors, teachers, and lawyers. Soon, they were reaching out to politicians. The day after the arrest, Cavazos contacted someone connected to U.S. Rep. Monica De

La Cruz, a Republican. Months earlier, De La Cruz had invited McAllen High School's Mariachi Oro to perform in Washington, praising the students and posing for photos with them at the Capitol. 'We thought she'd be the perfect person to help,' Cavazos said. On Feb. 26, De La Cruz's staff said they would look into the case. The next day, they said there was little the office could do, Cavazos said. The search for help continued." [San Antonio Express-News, [3/25/26](#)]

A Person Close To Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar Accused De La Cruz Of Delaying Antonio's Release Until She Could Be There To Receive Him For A Photo-Op

The New York Times Reported A Person Close To Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar Said De La Cruz Delayed Antonio's Release Until She Arrived To Receive Him

A Person Close To Antonio Gámez-Cuéllar Said His Release Was Delayed Until De La Cruz Could Be There For A Photo Opportunity. "And later Monday, a person close to Antonio said his release from the center in Raymondville had been delayed until the Republican congresswoman could arrive for a photo opportunity. A representative for Ms. De La Cruz said that was not accurate and that Ms. De La Cruz had to wait while Mr. Gámez-Cuellar was being processed. If she had not been there, the person said, he risked being transferred to another detention center." [New York Times, [3/9/26](#)]

De La Cruz's Immigration Efforts Had Not Borne Fruit, Dismissed By South Texas Leaders As "Photo Ops" And "Too Little, Too Late"

The South Texas Builders Association Blasted Monica De La Cruz's Immigration Meetings With Speaker Mike Johnson As A Mere Photo-Op

South Texas Builders Characterized De La Cruz's Meetings With Speaker Johnson On Immigration As "All Photo-Op" And "Too Little, Too Late"

De La Cruz Recently Held Meetings With Speaker Johnson, The Labor Department, And The White House Pitching Her Immigration Reform Bills And Called For ICE To Focus On "The Worst Of The Worst." "In recent weeks, De La Cruz said she has taken constituents to meet with the Labor Department, the White House and House Speaker Mike Johnson, pitching them on her bills and encouraging the administration to change its tact on immigration enforcement. 'There's limited resources, period. And we want those limited resources to be focused on the worst of the worst, the criminal immigrants that have come in,' De La Cruz said. 'We have legal immigrants in our district who have work visas that they don't want to go out to work because some may have fear about the process that is currently being administered.' But De La Cruz's shift in messaging has simultaneously earned skepticism from some industry leaders and frustration with the base, underscoring the political tightrope she must walk until November." [Politico, [2/16/26](#)]

South Texas Builders Association President Mario Guerrero Said De La Cruz's About-Face Was "Too Little, Too Late." "Guerrero, the construction nonprofit leader, said he sensed political opportunism in De La Cruz's newfound interest in helping his industry. 'People feel abandoned because you never showed face, and now that there's an actual crisis, you want to show face?' Guerrero said. 'It's like, dude, it's a little too late, man.'" [Politico, [2/16/26](#)]

A South Texas Builders Association Board Member Described The De La Cruz-Johnson Immigration Meeting As "All Photo-Op" Where He Felt "Censored" By The Meeting Organizers. "De La Cruz said she discussed the bill proposal with Johnson this week. Guerrero said one of the board members for the South Texas Builders Association was at the meeting as well and felt it was a waste of time. 'He said that nothing got done and it was just all photo-op,' Guerrero said. He added that the board member felt that he was 'censored' and could not fully speak about his concerns and ideas on the issue of immigration enforcement in his community." [The Hill, [2/12/26](#)]

De La Cruz's Self-Described "Top Legislative Priority" – The Bracero Program 2.0 Act – Languished And Failed To Gain Traction In Congress

De La Cruz Agricultural Guestworker Visa Reform Bill – Her "Top Legislative Priority" – Had Just Two Cosponsors

De La Cruz's "Bracero Program 2.0 Act" Had Just 2 Co-Sponsors. [[Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov), accessed [2/20/26](#)]

Headline: "De La Cruz: The Bracero Program 2.0 Is Now My Top Legislative Priority" [Rio Grande Guardian, [7/19/25](#)]

De La Cruz Called Her Bracero Program 2.0 Bill "Our Number One Priority." "Asked by veteran broadcaster Ron Whitlock if the legislation will pass the U.S. House, De La Cruz said: 'I am working very hard along with my team to get that passed. It is our Number One priority right now. So I invite you to keep in contact with us.'" [Rio Grande Guardian, [7/19/25](#)]

South Texas Farmers Suffered At The Hands Of ICE's Mass Deportation Tactics

Headline: "Texas Farmers Hit Hard As Migrant Workers Avoid ICE" [KVEO, [6/16/25](#)]

June 2025: Rio Grande Valley Farmer Nick Billman Said Workers Were Hesitant To Work On His Farm Out Of Fear Of ICE Raids, Regardless Of Immigration Status. "Farmers in Texas's Rio Grande Valley say they are feeling the pinch of workers failing to show up due to the ongoing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids. Farmer Nick Billman of Donna told Nexstar's KVEO that the raids are keeping employees from coming to work, leaving farmers without any help. He said things started getting worse just weeks ago. 'I would say within the last three weeks, it started to slow, but this last week has been huge,' Billman said. 'That is when it has been zero people wanting to come out and be exposed, to be able to be picked up, whether they are legal or illegal.'" [KVEO, [6/16/25](#)]

June 2025: Nick Billman: "Right Now, I Have Zero Workers." "The Trump administration has effectively shut down crossings by those on the Mexican side seeking asylum or just illegal work in plain sight in the fields. On the American side, where undocumented immigrants still make up much of the work force, many of those workers are afraid to show up. 'Right now, I have zero workers,' said Nick Billman, who owns Red River Farms, a farm-to-table operation in Donna, Texas. He wonders whether to plant if he has no one to maintain the fields and harvest them. 'We need to figure out what we're doing, you know?'" [New York Times, [6/27/25](#)]

June 2025: Farmers Reported That 30% To 60% Of Their Workers Stopped Showing Up To Work Amid Fears They Could Be Arrested By ICE On The Job. "Farmworkers have been among those targeted by immigration enforcement officials since the Trump administration intensified deportation efforts. Following raids in California last month, farmers reported that between 30% to 60% of their workers stopped showing up to work amid fears they could be arrested next." [Texas Tribune, [7/14/25](#)]

De La Cruz Stayed Silent As Trump Moved To Undermine Texas Cattle Ranchers With Argentina Imports

After Announcing Plans To Give Argentina A \$40 Billion Lifeline, Trump Said He Wanted To Import More Beef From The Country

The United States Committed \$40 Billion To Rescuing Argentina's Flailing Economy

10/16/25: The Trump Administration Announced Plans To Give A \$40 Billion Financial Lifeline To Argentina To Bolster President Javier Milei's Government And Argentina's Collapsing Currency. “The Trump administration is looking to provide an additional \$20 billion in financing for Argentina through a mix of financing from sovereign funds and the private sector. That would come on top of the \$20 billion credit swap line that the U.S. Treasury pledged to Argentine President Javier Milei and his government this month to bolster the South American nation's collapsing currency. ‘We are working on a \$20 billion facility that would complement our swap line, with private banks and sovereign funds that, I believe, would be more focused on the debt market,’ Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters Wednesday. He called it ‘a private-sector solution’ and said “many banks are interested in it and many sovereign funds have expressed interest.” [Associated Press, [10/16/25](#)]

Trump Planned To Quadruple Argentinian Beef Imports

10/20/25: Trump: “We Would Buy Some Beef From Argentina. If We Do That, That Would Bring Our Beef Prices Down.” “With beef prices soaring, President Trump is considering an idea that is at odds with his usual mantra that nearly everything should be made in the United States. Mr. Trump, who has imposed tariffs on nearly everything that America imports, said that he was considering buying beef from Argentina to bolster supplies and curb rising prices. The idea contradicts Mr. Trump's guiding economic philosophy of erecting import barriers to encourage domestic production. It also suggests that the president believes that in some cases, open markets can be an antidote to rising prices. ‘We would buy some beef from Argentina,’ Mr. Trump said to reporters aboard Air Force One on Sunday. ‘If we do that, that would bring our beef prices down.’” [New York Times, [10/20/25](#)]

10/22/25: The White House Planned To Buy Four Times The Typical Quota Of Argentine Beef. “The White House is looking to buy four times its typical quota of Argentine beef in an effort to lower consumer food prices — a move that risks alienating longtime farm-state allies of President Donald Trump, according to people familiar with the talks. Trump administration officials have told Hill Republicans and agriculture industry representatives that they're eyeing a purchase of 80,000 metric tons of beef, though that number is not final and talks are ongoing, according to the four people and one senior administration official, who were all granted anonymity to discuss the matter. The U.S.' current beef import quota on Argentina is 20,000 metric tons.” [Politico, [10/22/25](#)]

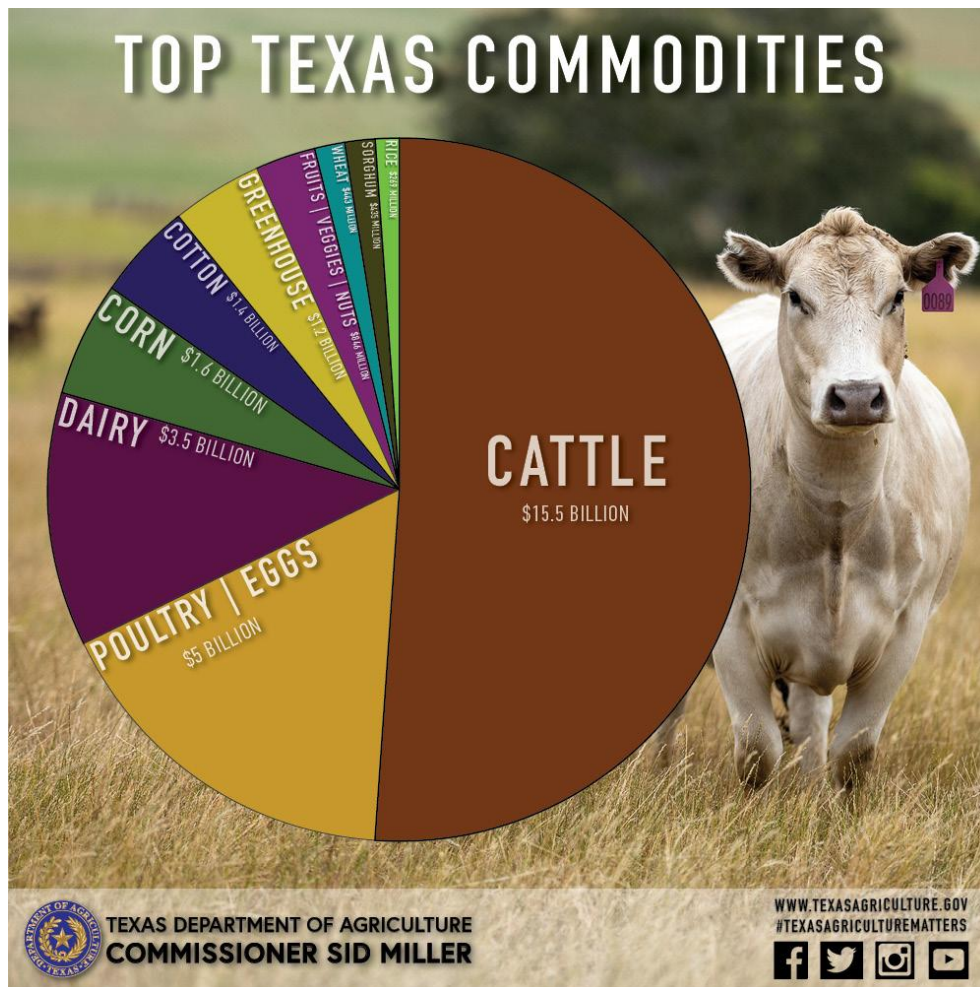
Texas Was The Leading Cattle State In The Country, Representing Billions In Economic Activity

Texas Had The Most Cattle Out Of Any State With 12.2 Million Head Of Cattle

Texas Had 12.2 Million Head Of Cattle, The Largest Of Any State. “The United States has 86.6 million head of cattle, with the top 13 states accounting for 66.22% of the total herd. Texas leads with 12.2 million head, followed by Nebraska (6.05 million) and Kansas (5.95 million). Among states with over 3 million head, California and Oklahoma stand out. California, with 5.05 million head, has a strong dairy industry that contributes significantly to its total. Oklahoma, home to 4.6 million head, benefits from large grazing pastures and strong feeder cattle production. Missouri (3.95 million), South Dakota (3.55 million), Iowa (3.5 million), and Wisconsin (3.25 million) also surpass the 3-million mark, with a mix of cow-calf operations, dairy, and feedlot production.” [National Beef Wire, accessed [10/22/25](#)]

Cattle Was Texas' Largest Agricultural Commodity, Totaling \$15.5 Billion In Value

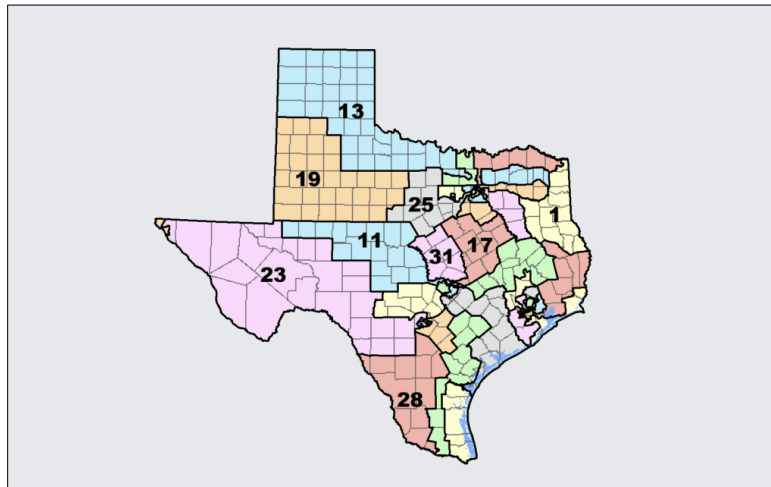
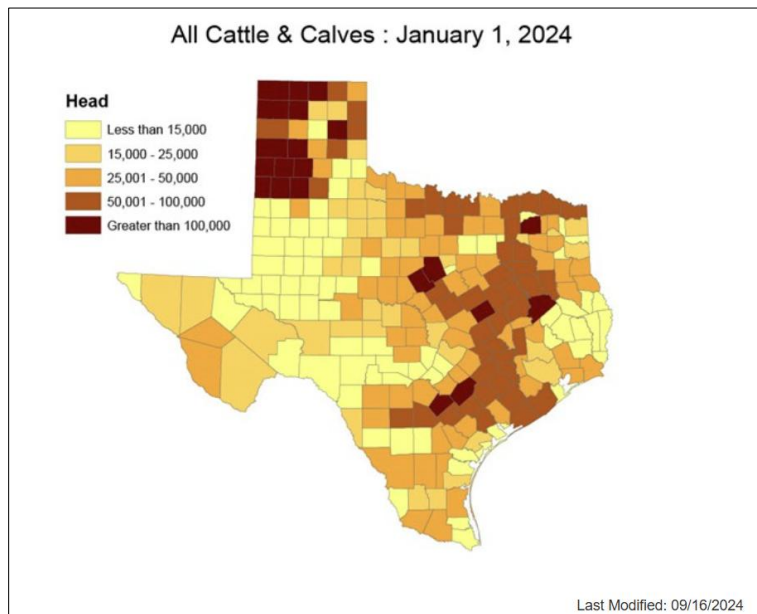
Cattle Represented Over Half Of Texas's Agricultural Economy And Brought In \$15.5 Billion. [Texas Department of Agriculture, accessed [10/21/25](#)]



Texas Led The Nation In Number Of Farms And Ranches With 230,662 Covering 125.5 Million Acres. “In 2022 Texas farms sold \$32.2 billion in agricultural products compared to \$24.9 billion in 2017 despite the decrease in number of farms. Texas leads the nation in number of farms and ranches, with 230,662 covering 125.5 million acres.” [Texas Department of Agriculture, accessed [10/21/25](#)]

TX-15 Contained A Large Concentration Of Cattle

Counties Represented By Monica De La Cruz Had Upwards Of , 50,000 And 100,000 Cattle And Calves. [USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Texas Field Office, [9/16/24](#)]



[USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Texas Field Office, [9/16/24](#)]

Cattle Ranchers Roundly Condemned Trump's Plan To Import More Beef From Argentina

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association Said They Could Not Stand Behind President Trump "While He Undercuts The Future Of Family Farmers And Ranchers By Importing Argentinian Beef"

National Cattlemen's Beef Association: "[@realDonaldTrump](#) [@WhiteHouse](#) Cattlemen And Women Cannot Stand Behind President Trump While He Undercuts The Future Of Family Farmers And Ranchers By Importing Argentinian Beef." "[@realDonaldTrump](#) [@WhiteHouse](#) Cattlemen and women cannot stand behind President Trump while he undercuts the future of family farmers and ranchers by importing Argentinian beef. It is imperative that [@POTUS](#) and [@SecRollins](#) let cattle markets work without interference. If the administration is truly an ally of America's cattle producers, we call on him to abandon this effort to manipulate markets and focus instead on completing the promised New World Screwworm facility in Texas; make additional investments that protect the domestic cattle herd from foreign animal diseases such as FMD; and address regulatory burdens, such as delisting of the gray wolf and addressing the scourge of black vultures." [Twitter, [@BeefUSA](#), [10/22/25](#)]



[Twitter, @BeefUSA, [10/22/25](#)]

NCBA: “NCBA’s Family Farmers And Ranchers Are Concerned That Rewarding Argentina With This Expanded Access To The U.S. Market Harms American Cattlemen And Women, While Also Interfering With The Free Market.” “Today, the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) responded to comments from President Donald J. Trump that suggested importing Argentinian beef as a solution to lower beef prices. NCBA’s family farmers and ranchers are concerned that rewarding Argentina with this expanded access to the U.S. market harms American cattlemen and women, while also interfering with the free market.” [National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Statement, [10/20/25](#)]

NCBA: Argentina Already Sold 114x More Beef Into The U.S. Market Than It Imported American Beef, Granting Argentina Cattle Ranchers A Lopsided Trade Relationship With The U.S. “‘NCBA’s family farmers and ranchers have numerous concerns with importing more Argentinian beef to lower prices for consumers. This plan only creates chaos at a critical time of the year for American cattle producers, while doing nothing to lower grocery store prices,’ said NCBA CEO Colin Woodall. ‘Additionally, Argentina has a deeply unbalanced trade relationship with the U.S. In the past five years Argentina has sold more than \$801 million of beef into the U.S. market. By comparison, the U.S. has sold just over \$7 million worth of American beef to Argentina.’” [National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Statement, [10/20/25](#)]

NCBA: “Argentina Also Has A History Of Foot-And-Mouth Disease, Which If Brought To The United States, Could Decimate Our Domestic Livestock Production.” “Argentina also has a history of foot-and-mouth disease, which if brought to the United States, could decimate our domestic livestock production.” [National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Statement, [10/20/25](#)]

NCBA: “We Call On President Trump And Members Of Congress To Let The Market Work, Rather Than Intervening In Ways That Do Nothing But Harm Rural America.” “Although beef prices have increased, consumer demand for beef remains strong because of the work American cattle producers have done to improve the quality and safety of U.S. beef. We call on President Trump and members of Congress to let the market work, rather than intervening in ways that do nothing but harm rural America.” [National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Statement, [10/20/25](#)]

Farm Action: President Trump’s Plan “Is A Betrayal Of The American Rancher”

Farm Action: “President Trump’s Plan To Buy Beef From Argentina Is A Betrayal Of The American Rancher.” “Farm Action issued the following response to President Donald Trump’s proposal that the U.S.

purchase Argentinian beef to bring down beef prices. This statement can be attributed to Christian Lovell, Farm Action's Senior Director of Programs and an Illinois cattle producer: 'President Trump's plan to buy beef from Argentina is a betrayal of the American rancher. Those of us who raise cattle have finally started to see what profit looks like after facing years of high input costs and market manipulation by the meatpacking monopoly.' [Farm Action, [10/20/25](#)]

Farm Action: "After Crashing The Soybean Market And Gifting Argentina Our Largest Export Buyer, He's Now Poised To Do The Same To The Cattle Market." "After crashing the soybean market and gifting Argentina our largest export buyer, he's now poised to do the same to the cattle market. Importing Argentinian beef would send U.S. cattle prices plummeting—and with the meatpacking industry as consolidated as it is, consumers may not see lower beef prices either. Washington should be focused on fixing our broken cattle market, not rewarding foreign competitors.'" [Farm Action, [10/20/25](#)]

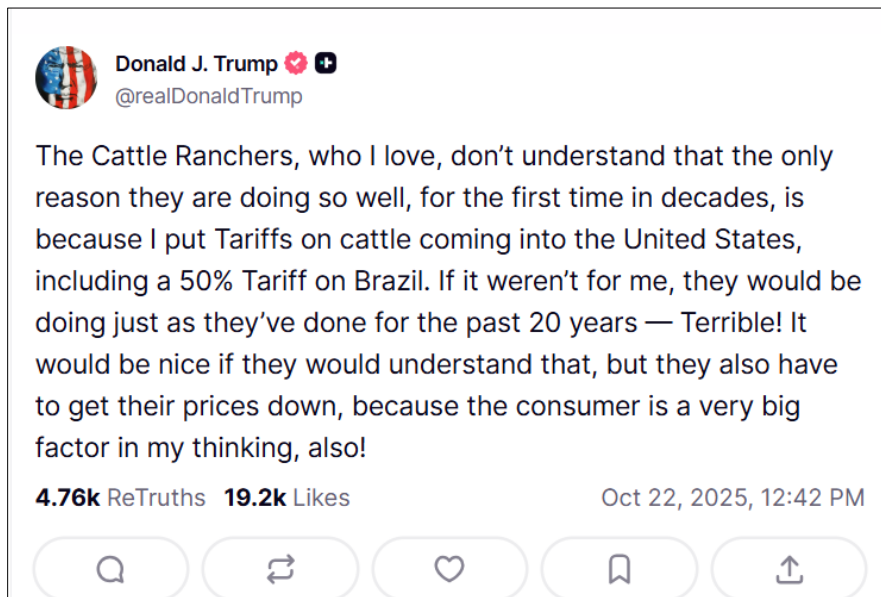
R-CALF USA, The Largest Group Representing Solely Cattle Ranchers, Said Importing More Argentinian Beef Would Exacerbate The Pains In The U.S. Cattle Industry

R-CALF USA Stated: "Attempting To Lower Domestic Beef Prices Simply By Inviting Even More Imports Will Both Exacerbate And Accelerate The Ongoing Dismantling Of The Domestic Beef Supply Chain." "Just over a generation ago, cattle producers received over 60% of the consumer's beef dollar and the packer and retailer received under 40%, and at that time consumer beef prices were affordable. But since that time, the packers' and retailers' share of the consumer beef dollar grew disproportionately to the cattle producers' share. By 2021, the allocation was completely reversed, with packers and retailers receiving over 60% and producers receiving under 40% of the consumer's beef dollar. 'In other words, the monopolistic control by the concentrated beef packers and beef retailers, and their access to unlimited, cheaper imports, enable them to exploit producers at one end of the beef supply chain and consumers on the other. 'Attempting to lower domestic beef prices simply by inviting even more imports will both exacerbate and accelerate the ongoing dismantling of the domestic beef supply chain.'" [R-CALF USA, [10/20/25](#)]

Trump Doubled Down On His Plan Despite Outspoken Criticism From Cattle Ranchers

Trump Said He Was The Only Reason Cattle Ranchers Were "Doing So Well"

Trump Accused Cattle Ranchers Of Not Understanding He Was The Sole Reason "They Are Doing So Well" And "It Would Be Nice If They Understand That." "The Cattle Ranchers, who I love, don't understand that the only reason they are doing so well, for the first time in decades, is because I put Tariffs on cattle coming into the United States, including a 50% Tariff on Brazil. If it weren't for me, they would be doing just as they've done for the past 20 years — Terrible! It would be nice if they would understand that, but they also have to get their prices down, because the consumer is a very big factor in my thinking, also!" [Truth Social, @realDonaldTrump, [10/22/25](#)]



[Truth Social, @realDonaldTrump, [10/22/25](#)]

Trump: “I Saved [The Ranchers]. I Don’t Think You’d Have Any Beef In This Country If I Didn’t Do That.” “Trump: ‘The ranchers are so happy for what I've done. I saved them. I don't think you'd have any beef in this country if I didn't do that. So we're very proud of that.’” [Twitter, @atrupar, [10/22/25](#)]



[Twitter, @atrupar, [10/22/25](#)]

NCBA To Trump: “The Reality Is That Ranchers’ Success Is Driven By Their Own Hard Work.”

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association Responded To Trump Directly Stating “The Reality Is That Ranchers’ Success Is Driven By Their Own Hard Work.” “.@realDonaldTrump @POTUS @WhiteHouse The reality is that ranchers’ success is driven by their own hard work. America’s cattlemen and women operate in one

of the most competitive marketplaces in the world. U.S. cattle producers are proud to provide the safest, highest-quality beef on earth. We simply ask that the government not undercut them by importing more Argentinian beef in order to manipulate prices.” [Twitter, @BeefUSA, [10/22/25](#)]



[Twitter, @BeefUSA, [10/22/25](#)]

Texas Leaders Pushed Back On Trump’s Plan To Import More Beef From Argentina

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller Warned Importing More Beef From Argentina Would Hurt Texas Ranchers

Headline: “Sid Miller Warns Trump That More Beef Imports Will Hurt Texas Ranchers” [Houston Chronicle, [10/21/25](#)]

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller: Offshoring Beef Production To Argentina Would Increase “Our Already Substantial \$50 Billion Agricultural Trade Deficit.” ““Instead of offshoring our beef production by buying Argentinian beef, which would increase our already substantial \$50 billion agricultural trade deficit, we should consider importing breeding stock to increase our own U.S. beef production capacity,’ Miller said” [Twitter, @TexasDeptofAg, [10/21/25](#)]



[Twitter, @TexasDeptofAg, [10/21/25](#)]

Miller Said Importing Breed Stock To Increase Domestic Herds Would Be More Helpful In Bringing Down Costs. “Texas ranchers and state Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller are pushing back on President Donald Trump's suggestion that the United States import more beef from Argentina to combat high domestic prices. Miller, a Republican and longtime Trump ally, wrote on X Tuesday morning that increasing beef imports would hurt ranchers. ‘There doesn't need to be a conflict between our beef producers and consumers,’ he wrote. ‘If we want to lower prices (and we should), we should be importing breed stock to increase our domestic herds, benefiting consumers and producers!’” [Houston Chronicle, [10/21/25](#)]

Texas-Based Beef Initiative Association Council Accused Trump Of Choosing A Foreign Nation Over American Farmers

Headline: “Beef With Trump: Texas Ranchers Furious Over Argentina Imports” [Chron, [10/20/25](#)]

The Beef Initiative Association Council Accused The Federal Government Of Prioritizing A Foreign Nation Over American Family Farmers And Ranchers. “The Beef Initiative Association Council (TBIAC), a Texas-based beef industry advocacy group led by ranchers Texas Slim and Justin Trammel, echoed the criticism. In a series of posts on X, the group accused the federal government of prioritizing foreign nations over American producers. ‘In 67 years we lose the last U.S. rancher!’ one post read. ‘The feds have again chosen a foreign nation over our own family farmers! America's ranchers are ready to feed this nation. Are you going to stand with them? Buy rancher direct beef.’ ‘In 67 years we lose the last U.S. rancher!’ one post read. ‘The feds have again chosen a foreign nation over our own family farmers! America's ranchers are ready to feed this nation. Are you going to stand with them? Buy rancher direct beef.’” [Chron, [10/20/25](#)]

Beef Initiative: “President Trump We Support You But American Food Sovereignty Should Not Come Second To Argentina Or Any Country!” “PRESIDENT TRUMP WE SUPPORT YOU BUT AMERICAN

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY SHOULD NOT COME SECOND TO ARGENTINA OR ANY COUNTRY! AMERICA FIRST!" [Twitter, @beefinitiative, [10/20/25](#)]



[Twitter, @beefinitiative, [10/20/25](#)]

Despite Boasting Of Her Support For Ranchers And Farmers, De La Cruz Was Nowhere To Be Found

De La Cruz Did Not Sign Onto A House Republicans Letter Urging The Trump Administration Not To Follow Through On Trump's Plan To Import More Beef From Argentina

Eight Republican House Members Led By North Dakota Rep. Julie Fedorchak Wrote A Letter Warning Trump's Plan To Import More Beef From Argentina Would Rattle The Cattle Industry. "A group of House Republicans is raising concerns about the potential effects of the U.S. importing Argentinian beef after President Donald Trump floated the idea earlier this week. Rep. Julie Fedorchak, R-N.D., is leading seven other House GOP lawmakers in a letter to the president on Tuesday evening, warning the potential plan has rattled the multibillion-dollar American ranching industry. 'America's cattle producers are among the most resilient and hardworking in the nation,' the Republicans wrote. 'Collectively, the cattle industry supports thousands of jobs across our districts and contributes \$112 billion to rural economies nationwide.'" [Fox News, [10/21/25](#)]

The House Republicans Warned That Imported Beef Would Not Be Held To The Same Gold Standard Food Safety And Animal Health Requirements As American Cattle. "But the House Republicans questioned whether imported beef would be held to the same food safety and animal health requirements as that of the U.S., which they called 'the gold standard.' 'Any import policy must hold foreign suppliers to those same rigorous standards. Introducing beef from countries with inconsistent safety or inspection records could undermine the confidence that U.S. ranchers have worked decades to earn,' the lawmakers warned." [Fox News, [10/21/25](#)]

- **De La Cruz Was Not Among The Signatories Of The Letter.** "In addition to Fedorchak, the letter is also signed by Reps. Michelle Fischbach, R-Minn., Troy Downing, R-Mont., Gabe Evans, R-Colo., Dusty Johnson,

R-S.D., Derek Schmidt, R-Kan., Jeff Hurd, R-Colo., and Republican Study Committee Chair August Pfluger, R-Texas.” [Fox News, [10/21/25](#)]

De La Cruz Boasted Of Her Support For Ranchers And Farmers

September 2025: De La Cruz Met With Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller And Talked Of The Need To “Strengthen, Support, And Protect Farmers And Ranchers From Rising Threats.” “Great to meet with @TexasDeptofAg Commissioner Sid Miller while he visited DC. We discussed the future of Texas ag and ways we can strengthen, support, and protect farmers and ranchers from rising threats, like the New World Screwworm and water shortages.” [Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [9/10/25](#)]



[Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [9/10/25](#)]

June 2023: De La Cruz: “You Can Always Find Me Standing By Our Farmers And Ranchers!” “You can always find me standing by our farmers and ranchers!” [Twitter, @monica4congress, [6/13/23](#)]



[Twitter, @monica4congress, [6/13/23](#)]

De La Cruz Made No Public Statement Addressing Trump's Plan

As Of 5/27/26, De La Cruz Made No Statement Pushing Back On Trump's Plan To Import More Beef From Argentina. [[@RepMonicaDLC](#), [@monica4congress](#), Congressional Website, Campaign Website, accessed [5/27/26](#); [5/27/26](#); [5/27/26](#); [5/27/26](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Reckless Tariff Policies That Hurt South Texas Farmers Making It Harder For Them To Sell Their Crops And Raised Costs For Families

De La Cruz Defended Trump's Tariffs, And Repeatedly Voted To Keep Them In Place, Contradicting Her Pledge To Oppose Them

De La Cruz Repeatedly Voted To Stop Congress From Reining In Trump's Tariffs

February 2026: De La Cruz Voted Against Terminating The National Emergency That Imposed Tariffs On Goods From Canada. In February 2026, De La Cruz voted against: "Passage of the joint resolution that would terminate the Feb. 1, 2025, national emergency that imposed tariffs on goods from Canada." The bill passed by a vote of 219-211. [H. J. Res. 72, [Vote #65](#), 2/11/26; CQ, [2/11/26](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Providing Consideration Of The Law-Enforcement Innovate To De-Escalate Act, The Undersea Cable Protection Act, The Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act, And Blocking Consideration Of Joint Resolutions Terminating Trump's Tariffs. In February 2026, De La Cruz voted for: "Adoption of the rule (H Res 1042) providing for floor consideration of the Law-Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act (HR 2189), the Undersea Cable Protection Act (HR 261), and the Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act (HR 3617). The rule would allow for up to one hour of debate on each measure. It would consider as adopted a substitute amendment to HR 2189 appending the text of the Innovate Less Lethal to De-Escalate Tax Modernization Act (HR 4242), as reported by the Ways and Means Committee. It also would block

the expedited consideration of joint resolutions terminating President Donald Trump's 2025 tariff actions under the Feb. 1, April 2, July 30, and Aug. 6 executive orders by providing that each day during the period from Feb. 10, 2026 through July 31, 2026, will not constitute a calendar day under the federal law pertaining to terminating national emergencies.” The resolution was rejected by a vote of 214-217. [H. Res. 1042, [Vote #60](#), 2/10/26; CQ, [2/10/26](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Keeping Trump’s Tariffs In Place. In September 2025, De La Cruz {voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 707) providing for floor consideration of four bills that would eliminate the ability of judges in D.C. from treating young adults charged with crimes as juveniles during sentencing (HR 4922), allow vehicular pursuit of a suspect fleeing in a motor vehicle (HR 5143), lower the age at which a juvenile can be charged as an adult for certain crimes from 16 to 14 years of age (HR 5140), and authorize the president to unilaterally make judicial nominations for D.C. courts (HR 5125). It would consider as adopted substitute amendments consisting of the respective texts of their Rules Committee prints. The rule would provide for up to one hour of debate on each measure. The resolution also would provide a closed rule for floor consideration of a bill (HR 1047) that would direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to streamline the procedures for processing requests to integrate new energy generation projects into existing transmission systems; a bill (HR 3015) that would reestablish, and codify, the National Coal Council in the Energy Department; and a bill (HR 3062) that would specify that an entity could not construct or operate a border-crossing facility that imports or exports oil or natural gas or transmits electricity across a U.S. international border without a certificate of crossing. It would consider as adopted a substitute amendment to HR 1407 consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-9, as well as a substitute amendments to HR 3015 and HR 3062 recommended by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It would provide for up to one hour of debate on each measure. The resolution would further provide that in the engrossment of a House-passed digital assets bill (HR 3633), the House clerk would add the text of another House-passed measure (HR 1919) that would prevent a central bank cryptocurrency as a new matter at the end of the assets bill. It would provide that the clerk make technical corrections based on the change. The resolution also would allow for the tolling (the pausing of counting) of days for resolutions of inquiry from Sept. 30, 2025 through March 31, 2026. It also would provide that each day during the period from April 9, 2025, through March 31, 2026, would not constitute a calendar day for the purposes of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act with respect to a joint resolution to terminate President Donald Trump's April 2, 2025 executive order declaring a national emergency regarding tariffs on imported goods. The resolution also would provide that during the period for March 11, 2025 through March 31, 2026, would not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act with respect to a joint resolution terminating a national emergency executive order declared by President Trump on Feb. 1, 2025. Such an executive order concerned tariffs on many Canadian and Mexican imports and Chinese goods. The resolution also would provide that the provisions of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act would not apply through March 31, 2026 to a joint resolution terminating the national emergency.” The bill passed 213 to 211. [H Res 707, [Vote #268](#), 9/16/25; CQ, [9/16/25](#)]

September 2025: De La Cruz Voted For A Motion To Discharge From The House Foreign Affairs Committee The Joint Resolution That Would Terminate The National Emergency Declared By President Donald Trump On July 30, 2025, Which Imposed An Additional 40 Percent Tariff On Certain Goods Imported From Brazil. In September 2025, De La Cruz voted for: “Mast, R-Fla., motion to table the Meeks, D-N.Y., motion to discharge from the House Foreign Affairs Committee the joint resolution that would terminate the national emergency declared by President Donald Trump on July 30, 2025, which imposed an additional 40 percent tariff on certain goods imported from Brazil.” The motion was agreed by a vote of 200-198. [H J Res 117, [Vote #265](#), 9/15/25; CQ, [9/15/25](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Blocking Expedited Consideration Of Joint Resolutions Terminating Trump’s Tariff Actions And Considering The Senate Amendment To The FY 2025 Budget Resolution. In April 2025, De La Cruz voted for “Adoption of the rule (H Res 313) that would provide for floor consideration of the Senate amendment to the fiscal 2025 budget resolution (H Con Res 14). The rule would provide up to one hour of debate on a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the measure. It also would block the expedited consideration of joint resolutions terminating President Donald Trump’s tariff actions under the April 2 executive order by providing that each day during the period from April 9, 2025 through Sept. 30, 2025, will not constitute a calendar day under

the federal law pertaining to terminating national emergencies.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 216-215. [H. Res. 313, [Vote #94](#), 4/9/25; CQ, [4/9/25](#)]

April 2025: House Republicans Passed A Rule By One Vote Preventing The House From Repealing Trump’s Tariffs Through September. “House Republicans are exhausting all legislative tools to prevent future votes on repealing President Donald Trump’s tariffs -- doubling down on their support for the administration’s policies as lawmakers narrowly passed a procedural hurdle to advance the Senate-approved GOP blueprint by a vote of 216-215. GOP leaders on Wednesday inserted language into the ‘rule’ for the budget blueprint that would prohibit the House, until at least September, from forcing a vote on legislation to rescind Trump’s national emergencies authority. ‘The rule provides that each day during the period from April 9, 2025, through September 30, 2025, shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622) with respect to a joint resolution terminating a national emergency declared by the President on April 2, 2025,’ the rule states.” [ABC News, [4/9/25](#)]

- **April 2025: De La Cruz Provided The Decisive Vote For A Rule Blocking Congress From Repealing Trump’s Tariffs For Five Months.** In April 2025, De La Cruz voted for: “Foxy, R-N.C., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 313) that would providing for floor consideration of the Senate amendment to the fiscal 2025 budget resolution (H Con Res 14). The rule would provide up to one hour of debate on a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the measure. It also would block the expedited consideration of joint resolutions terminating President Donald Trump’s tariff actions under the April 2 executive order by providing that each day during the period from April 9, 2025 through Sept. 30, 2025, will not constitute a calendar day under the federal law pertaining to terminating national emergencies. Motion agreed to 217-212.” [H Res 313, [Vote #93](#), [4/9/25](#); CQ, [4/9/25](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Keeping Trump’s Tariffs In Place. In March 2025, De La Cruz voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 211) that would provide for floor consideration of the fiscal 2025 full-year continuing appropriations bill (HR 1968); the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act (HR 1156); and the joint resolution (H J Res 25) providing for congressional disapproval of an Internal Revenue Service rule relating to digital asset sales. It would provide up to one hour of general debate on each measure. It would self-execute the Cole, R-Okla., manager’s amendment to HR 1968 that would make technical corrections. The rule would also block expedited consideration of joint resolutions to terminate national emergencies declared by President Donald Trump on Feb. 1, 2025, by specifying that each day for the remainder of the first session of the 119th Congress will not be considered a calendar day under the National Emergencies Act.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 216-214. [H Res 211, [Vote #67](#), 3/11/25; CQ, [3/11/25](#)]

De La Cruz Stated On Her Campaign Website She Would Oppose Harmful Tariffs

De La Cruz’s Website Said She Would “Oppose Tariffs That Hinder American Farmers From Reaching New Customers.” “Eliminate regulations on farmers and ranchers that prohibit economic prosperity Oppose tariffs that hinder American farmers from reaching new customers Ensure that ranchers and farmers get reimbursed funds for confirmed damages due to illegal immigrant traffic Fix the supply chain crisis to allow smooth exports of American agricultural products” [De La Cruz campaign website, accessed [9/22/25](#)]

Monica on the Issues

— Agriculture

- Eliminate regulations on farmers and ranchers that prohibit economic prosperity
- Oppose tariffs that hinder American farmers from reaching new customers
- Ensure that ranchers and farmers get reimbursed funds for confirmed damages due to illegal immigrant traffic
- Fix the supply chain crisis to allow smooth exports of American agricultural products

[De La Cruz campaign website, accessed [5/19/26](#)]

The Texas Agriculture Industry Struggled To Sell Crops And Keep Up With Costs Because Of Trump's Tariffs

April 2025: South Texas Farmers Were Not Able To Sell Their Crops As Quickly Because Of The Tariffs

April 2025: South Texas Farmers Were Not Able To Sell Their Crops As Quickly Because Of The Tariffs. “South Texas farmers are already feeling the effects of the changes to trade policy traffics introduced by the Trump Administration earlier this month. The Trump Administration announced a 90-day pause on tariffs, except for China, which now faces a 145 percent tariff on all goods. Bobby Nedbalek serves on the San Patricio County Farm Bureau and said South Texas is one of the first regions in the nation to begin their grain and cotton harvests. Bobby Nedbalek serves on the San Patricio County Farm Bureau and said South Texas is one of the first regions in the nation to begin their grain and cotton harvests. Nedbalek explained by this time in a typical year about 20 percent of the crop would already be sold—but this season not a single load has moved due to the instability of trade tariffs. ‘We’ve lost some of our customers because they’ve chose not to obey by those trade agreements that we’ve had in the past.’” [KIII TV 3 News, [4/24/25](#)]

- **KIII TV 3 News Headline: “Tariff Uncertainty Impacting South Texas Farmers.”** [KIII TV 3 News, [4/24/25](#)]

The Texas Corn Producers Association Said Row Croppers Were Facing Significant Economic Challenges As Trump's Tariffs Hit Producers. “While President Trump’s recent tariffs are hitting producers hard, especially for row crops like soybeans, the revenue from them could soon provide a lifeline. Meanwhile, area growers say if they don’t get relief right now, they might not make it to next season. ‘The outlook in the farming industry is pretty grim right now,’ producer Hagen Hunt said. Hunt grows cotton and corn north of Plainview. He also represents growers across the state as president of the Texas Corn Producers Association. He says his input costs have doubled in the last four years. ‘We’re below the cost of production. So, we are literally, it is costing us money to grow it that we are not getting back,’ he said. On top of that, commodity prices around the globe are caught in the middle of a trade war. ‘There’s no doubt that the farm economy is in a significant challenge right now, especially our row croppers,’ Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said.” [KCBD, [10/2/25](#)]

Cotton Farmers In South Texas Lost Market Share To Brazil Because Of Trump's Tariffs

Trump Started A Trade War With Several Countries. “Since the beginning of President Donald Trump’s second term, the United States has been in a trade war with several countries, most notably Mexico, Canada and China. The administration says foreign trade practices under former President Joe Biden's administration created a national emergency. Trump is using tariffs in an effort to strengthen American-made production.” [Spectrum News 1, [11/6/25](#)]

China Had Tariffs On Importing Cotton That Came From South Texas Because Of Trump's Trade War.

“According to a Texas A&M extension economist, John Robinson, about 85% of America's cotton is exported all over the world. Trump's trade war with China back during his first term impacted the amount of cotton China imported from America. ‘They had tariffs on importing our cotton,’ Robinson said. ‘We had tariffs on importing their textile products, and while that was happening, Brazil stepped in and took a lot of our market share just from China.’ Even though China imposed retaliatory tariffs on U.S. cotton in March, Robinson explains the industry is seeing more indirect effects as a result of Trump's most recent trade war. ‘To the extent that these tariffs worldwide slow economic growth, that in itself is, indirectly, is a bad thing for cotton consumption or it won't help, certainly,’ Robinson said. Tariffs are one piece of a large economic puzzle. Farmers all the way from the Panhandle to South Texas have been struggling to get by for years.” [Spectrum News 1, [11/6/25](#)]

Brazil Stepped In And Took A Large Share Of The Market From China Because Of Trump's Tariffs And Trade War.

“According to a Texas A&M extension economist, John Robinson, about 85% of America's cotton is exported all over the world. Trump's trade war with China back during his first term impacted the amount of cotton China imported from America. ‘They had tariffs on importing our cotton,’ Robinson said. ‘We had tariffs on importing their textile products, and while that was happening, Brazil stepped in and took a lot of our market share just from China.’ Even though China imposed retaliatory tariffs on U.S. cotton in March, Robinson explains the industry is seeing more indirect effects as a result of Trump's most recent trade war. ‘To the extent that these tariffs worldwide slow economic growth, that in itself is, indirectly, is a bad thing for cotton consumption or it won't help, certainly,’ Robinson said. Tariffs are one piece of a large economic puzzle. Farmers all the way from the Panhandle to South Texas have been struggling to get by for years.” [Spectrum News 1, [11/6/25](#)]

March 2026: Texas Farmers Needed Trump's \$12 Billion Aid Package Because They Were Hit Hard By Tariffs Disrupted Trade Markets

March 2026: Texas Farmers Needed Trump's \$12 Billion Aid Package Because They Were Hit Hard By Tariffs Disrupted Trade Markets. “In December, President Trump announced a \$12-billion aid package for farmers through the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program. Those who qualify could receive payments by March 28. Farmers have been hit hard by temporary trade market disruptions, increased production costs, and unforeseen disasters like fires, floods, and parasites. Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said it has been tough, but things are trending upward.” [KFOX 14, [3/2/26](#)]

2025: Trump's Tariffs Were One Of The Largest Tax Increases In The Country's History

Center For Economic And Policy Research: Trump's Tariffs Were “The Largest Tax Increases In The Country's History.” “Donald Trump is putting in place the largest tax increase in the country's history with his big import taxes (tariffs). We won't know the full size of Trump's taxes until after Liberation Day III (August 1), and probably not even then, but we already know that they are huge. This is evident from the tariff revenue the government is collecting. In June the government collected \$26.6 billion in tariff revenue. That is up from around \$6 billion a month in 2024 before Trump's tax hikes. The difference of \$20 billion comes to \$240 billion on an annual basis. Summed over a decade, as we do with other measures, this comes to \$2.4 trillion. This would be a substantial tax hike in itself, roughly \$1,900 per household, but we know that the figure is almost certain to go much higher. Trump is threatening taxes of an additional 10 to 30 percent on imports from our major trading partners, such as Mexico, Canada, the European Union, and Japan. The tax take could easily end up being twice its current level, making Trump's tariff frenzy by far the largest tax increase in US history.” [Center For Economic and Policy Research, [7/17/25](#)]

2026: Trump's Tariffs Were Estimated To Cost American Families Thousands Per Year

Trump's Tariffs Increased The Cost Of Living By More Than \$1,700 Per Family

Trump's Tariffs Increased The Cost Of Living By More Than \$1,700 Per Family. “Following the Supreme Court's decision today to overturn Trump's tariffs, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority released an updated

report estimating that American families have already paid more than \$1,700 each in tariff costs since President Trump took office. Combining Treasury Department data on the amount of tariff revenue collected across the first year of Trump's term with independent estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office of the percent of each tariff dollar that is paid by American consumers, the Committee found that they paid more than \$231 billion in total tariff costs between February 2025 and January 2026, an average of more than \$1,700 per family. 'President Trump's tariffs have been a disaster for American families, driving costs up at the worst possible time,' said U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan, Ranking Member of the Joint Economic Committee. 'While the Supreme Court has thankfully and correctly ruled that much of Trump's tariff agenda was an illegal exercise of presidential power, today's ruling cannot undo the damage that tariffs have already caused.'" [Joint Economic Committee, Press Release, [2/20/26](#)]

- **Joint Economic Committee Headline: "UPDATED DATA: American Families Have Already Paid More Than \$1,700 Each In Tariff Costs Since Trump Entered Office."** [Joint Economic Committee, Press Release, [2/20/26](#)]

2026: The Joint Economic Committee Estimated That Tariffs Would Cost American Families More Than \$2,500 On Average

Joint Economic Committee Minority: "American Families Will Pay More Than \$2,500 Each In Tariff Costs In 2026." "Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the bulk of President Trump's tariff agenda was illegal, the administration moved immediately to enact new tariffs that Treasury Secretary Bessent claims will result in 'virtually unchanged tariff revenue in 2026'. If Bessent's estimates hold true, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority estimates that American families will pay more than \$2,500 each in tariff costs in 2026. Building on its previous tariff cost estimates, the Committee combined official data from the U.S. Treasury Department on the amount of tariff revenue collected since the start of 2025 with independent estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office of the percent of each tariff dollar that is ultimately paid by American consumers. The Committee found that if tariff revenue stays at the level recorded in January 2026 for the rest of the year, American families would in total pay more than \$330 billion in tariff costs in 2026, an average of more than \$2,500 per household in tariff costs this year. This is substantially higher than the more than \$1,700 in average tariff costs that the JEC – Minority previously estimated that families paid during the first year of Trump's second term." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Fact Sheet, [March 2026](#)]

Joint Economic Committee Minority: With The Trump Administration's Projected Tariff Policy, "American Families Would In Total Pay More Than \$300 Billion In Tariff Costs In 2026." "Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the bulk of President Trump's tariff agenda was illegal, the administration moved immediately to enact new tariffs that Treasury Secretary Bessent claims will result in 'virtually unchanged tariff revenue in 2026'. If Bessent's estimates hold true, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority estimates that American families will pay more than \$2,500 each in tariff costs in 2026. Building on its previous tariff cost estimates, the Committee combined official data from the U.S. Treasury Department on the amount of tariff revenue collected since the start of 2025 with independent estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office of the percent of each tariff dollar that is ultimately paid by American consumers. The Committee found that if tariff revenue stays at the level recorded in January 2026 for the rest of the year, American families would in total pay more than \$330 billion in tariff costs in 2026, an average of more than \$2,500 per household in tariff costs this year. This is substantially higher than the more than \$1,700 in average tariff costs that the JEC – Minority previously estimated that families paid during the first year of Trump's second term." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Fact Sheet, [March 2026](#)]

Consumers Shouldered The Burden Of Trump's Tariffs As They Raised The Price Of Basic Goods Like Food And Clothing

Consumers Shouldered 55% Of The Tariff Burden As Compared To Businesses

The Hill Headline: "US Consumers Shouldering 55 Percent Of Trump Tariff Costs: Goldman Sachs" [The Hill, [10/13/25](#)]

Fox News Headline: “US Businesses And Consumers Shoulder The Bulk Of Tariff Cost Burden, Goldman Sachs Finds” [Fox News, [10/21/25](#)]

Goldman Sachs Found U.S. Consumers Would Be Absorbing 55% Of Tariff Costs By The End Of 2025.

“Goldman’s economists assessed that by the end of 2025, U.S. consumers will be absorbing 55% of tariff costs, while 22% will fall on U.S. businesses, 18% on foreign exporters and 5% on potential tariff evasion. ‘Our 22% estimate for U.S. businesses is modest because it is a net impact – companies that use or sell imported goods will bear a larger share of tariff costs, while domestic producers that are shielded from foreign competition by tariffs will be able to raise their own prices and increase their margins,’ the economists wrote.” [Fox Business, [10/21/25](#)]

Goldman Sachs Found 22% Of Tariff Costs Would Fall On U.S. Businesses By The End Of 2025.

“Goldman’s economists assessed that by the end of 2025, U.S. consumers will be absorbing 55% of tariff costs, while 22% will fall on U.S. businesses, 18% on foreign exporters and 5% on potential tariff evasion. ‘Our 22% estimate for U.S. businesses is modest because it is a net impact – companies that use or sell imported goods will bear a larger share of tariff costs, while domestic producers that are shielded from foreign competition by tariffs will be able to raise their own prices and increase their margins,’ the economists wrote.” [Fox Business, [10/21/25](#)]

Trump’s Tariffs Raised Prices On Cars

Kelley Blue Book: “President Trump Has Announced A 25% Tariff On All Cars Built Outside The United States And On Many Parts Used In Cars Built Here. [...] Shoppers Can Expect The Tariffs To Increase Car Prices By As Much As \$6,000 On Vehicles Priced Under \$40,000.” “President Trump has announced a 25% tariff on all cars built outside the United States and on many parts used in cars built here. See our latest news updates below on where tariffs stand. Effective Dates: Imported Cars: Tariffs began on April 3. Car Parts: Tariffs began on May 3. These tariffs have started to increase car prices. To save money, consider locking in a new car deal before any potential price increases take effect. Can You Avoid a Car Tariff? No vehicle made at an assembly plant in the United States is 100% made here. Even Tesla sources its parts from other countries. This means that with tariffs, car prices will increase for American car buyers, though the timing remains unclear. You can potentially avoid paying a tariff on a new car by purchasing one that was imported to the U.S. before the tariffs took effect, or by buying a used car. How Will Tariffs Affect Car Buying? If new cars become too expensive, used cars will become more attractive. However, if demand spikes, used car prices may also increase. Here’s more information: New cars: Shoppers can expect the tariffs to increase car prices by as much as \$6,000 on vehicles priced under \$40,000. Higher car prices mean higher car taxes, financing, car insurance, and other ownership costs. This price pressure will make cars less affordable for consumers.” [Kelley Blue Book, [9/15/25](#)]

Trump’s Tariffs Raised Prices On Groceries

Trump’s Tariffs Contributed To Prices Rising For Groceries. “President Donald Trump pledged to bring down grocery costs. But his administration’s policies are contributing to an acceleration in prices, food economists and companies say. Grocery prices last month rose at their fastest pace in three years, stoked by Trump’s tariffs, a crackdown on immigration, and extreme weather hurting food production. Prices jumped 0.6% in August from the month prior, according to the latest reading from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and they are up 2.7% from a year ago. Food prices are deeply personal to consumers, and weekly grocery bills shape their overall perceptions of the economy. More than half of Americans count grocery costs as a major stress in their lives. Low-income and middle-income Americans, hit the hardest by rising grocery costs, are changing where they shop and what they buy. Companies are also taking extreme measures to appeal to shoppers strained by higher prices, such as bringing back paper coupons.” [CNN, [9/20/25](#)]

- **Axios Headline: “Grocery Inflation Highest Since 2022 As Trump Tariffs Pile Up.”** [Axios, [9/11/25](#)]

Trump’s Tariffs Raised Prices On Apparel Goods

Trump's Tariffs Raised Prices On Apparel Goods. “The impact of President Donald Trump’s tariffs on prices throughout the economy is expected to increase over the summer. At U.S. department store chains including Macy’s , Nordstrom, and Dillard’s , the evidence of sticker price inflation is starting to show up across more items. Recent price increases in apparel, footwear, and bags across major U.S. department-store websites tracked by DataWeave indicate a turning point in May, when prices started their ascent. DataWeave analyzes nearly 15,000 SKUs (stock keeping units), a scannable code retailers use to identify and track a product, and has been collecting that data from January to June for signs of price hikes in footwear, apparel, and bags. ‘Footwear is now as much as 4% above January levels at some banners, while apparel is roughly half that pace,’ said Karthik Bettadapura, co-founder & CEO of DataWeave.” [CNBC, [7/2/25](#)]

- **CNBC Headline: “Inside America’s Department Stores, Tariff-Triggered Price Hikes Are Picking Up.”** [CNBC, [7/2/25](#)]
- **The Guardian Headline: “Clothing Prices Rising In US As Trump Tariffs Kick In, H&M Boss Says.”** [The Guardian, [6/26/25](#)]

While The Oil And Gas Industry Blamed Tariffs For Thousands Of Layoffs, Lower Production, And Cuts To Capital Investments, Rep. Monica De La Cruz Voted To Uphold Republicans’ Tariffs, Despite Vowing To Oppose Harmful Tariffs And Protect Oil Jobs

As The Oil And Gas Industry Shed Thousands Of Jobs And Cut Billions In Capital Investments, Executives Blamed Tariffs For Driving Higher Costs And Economic Uncertainty

2025: Texas And The U.S. Oil And Gas Industry Scaled Back Investment And Slowed Activity Due To Elevated Uncertainty

2025: Dallas Fed Energy Survey: “Oil And Gas Activity Slips Again On Elevated Uncertainty, Higher Costs” [Dallas Fed Energy Survey, [9/24/25](#)]

2025: Dallas Fed Energy Survey: Oil And Gas Company Outlook Index Fell More Than 10 Points To -17.6 In The Third Quarter, “Suggesting Pessimism Among Firms.” “Activity in the oil and gas sector declined slightly in the third quarter of 2025, according to oil and gas executives responding to the Dallas Fed Energy Survey. The business activity index, the survey’s broadest measure of the conditions energy firms face in the Eleventh District, remained negative but edged up from -8.1 in the second quarter to -6.5 in the third quarter. The company outlook index fell from -6.4 in the second quarter to -17.6, suggesting pessimism among firms. Meanwhile, the outlook uncertainty index remained elevated but edged down from 47.1 to 44.6.” [Dallas Fed Energy Survey, [9/24/25](#)]

- **Dallas Fed Energy Survey: Oil And Gas Production Dropped In The Third Quarter.** “Oil and gas production declined slightly in the third quarter, according to executives at exploration and production firms. The oil production index remained negative and was relatively unchanged at -8.6 in the third quarter. Similarly, the natural gas production index was relatively unchanged at -3.2.” [Dallas Fed Energy Survey, [9/24/25](#)]
- **Dallas Fed Energy Survey: 78% Of Oil Executives Reported They Delayed Investment Decisions In Response To Heightened Uncertainty About The Price And Cost Of Producing Oil.** “Most executives report they have delayed investment decisions in response to heightened uncertainty about the price of oil and/or the cost of producing oil. Forty-two percent of executives said they have slightly delayed investment decisions, and 36 percent of executives report they have significantly delayed decisions. Executives at small E&P firms were slightly more likely to report no delay compared with executives at large E&P firms.” [Dallas Fed Energy Survey, [9/24/25](#)]

- **Reuters: A Combination Of Rising Costs And Lower Oil Prices Pushed 22 Public U.S. Oil Producers To Cut Their Capital Expenditures By \$2 Billion.** “Lower oil prices and rising costs have pushed 22 public U.S. producers, including Occidental Petroleum Corp (OXY.N), opens new tab, ConocoPhillips, Diamondback Energy (FANG.O), opens new tab, to cut their capital expenditures by \$2 billion, according to a Reuters analysis of second quarter earnings announcements. The analysis did not include oil majors Exxon (XOM.N), opens new tab or Chevron.” [Reuters, [9/8/25](#)]

2025: U.S. And Texas Oil Companies Cut Thousands Of Jobs

Reuters: U.S. Oil And Gas Production Jobs Fell By 4,700 Through June 2025 And Energy Services Jobs Fell By 23,000 In August 2025. “U.S. oil and gas production jobs fell by 4,700 in the first six months of this year, Texas labor market statistics showed, while energy services jobs declined by about 23,000 to 628,062 in August from the start of this year, according to a report from the Energy Workforce & Technology Council.” [Reuters, [9/8/25](#)]

OilPrice.com Headline: “U.S. Oil Patch Sheds Jobs As Producers Face Weaker Prices” [OilPrice.com, [9/13/25](#)]

Bureau Of Labor Statistics: The US Shale Patch Saw The Deepest Job Cuts In Three Years, With Employment Falling 6,000 In August. “The U.S. shale patch is seeing the deepest jobs cuts in three years as producers respond to lower oil prices with slowing drilling activity and greater efficiencies through consolidation and cost cuts. Employment in the industry fell by 1.7% in August, per data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) cited by Bloomberg. In contrast, total U.S. nonfarm payroll employment changed little in August and has shown little change since April, BLS said in its most recent publication. In August, employment in mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction declined by 6,000 after changing little over the prior 12 months, the BLS data shows. The number of jobs in the oil and gas sector has fallen to levels last seen in 2022, when the shale patch faced another oil glut.” [OilPrice.com, [9/13/25](#)]

- **American Oil Producers Coped With Oil Prices Near Breakeven Point By Postponing New Wells And Laying Off Workers To Maintain Profitability.** “U.S. oil producers are on the hunt for consolidation, synergies, efficiencies, and cost cuts to be able to sustain shareholder payouts at U.S. oil prices in the low \$60s per barrel, and possibly lower later this year. As the price of oil is dangerously close to breakevens for many smaller independents, the U.S. shale patch is in a wait-and-see mode. U.S. oil producers are trimming capital expenditure budgets, relying on efficiency gains from current drilling activity to keep output levels. They expect to ride the price decline with minimal tweaks to strategies, for now. The first tweaks include deferring well completions and pumping more with less—meaning jobs have to go. The biggest producers are cutting headcount, too, in the thousands, following blockbuster acquisitions in recent months.” [OilPrice.com, [9/13/25](#)]

New York Times Headline: “The Biggest U.S. Oil Companies Are Eliminating Thousands of Jobs” [New York Times, [9/3/25](#)]

September 2025: ConocoPhillips Announced It Would Cut Up To 25% Of Its Global Staff, Or As Many As 3,250 People. “In the last couple of years, the largest U.S. oil companies gobbled up smaller ones. Now, contending with persistently mediocre oil prices, those giants are laying off many workers in hopes of squeezing more fuel from the ground at lower cost. The latest is ConocoPhillips of Houston, which said on Wednesday that it would cut up to 25 percent of its global staff, or as many as 3,250 people, most of them this year. The company employs around 13,000 people, including contractors.” [New York Times, [9/3/25](#)]

2025: Chevron Announced It Planned To Lay Off Up To 9,000 Employees, 20% Of Its Workforce. “Chevron, the second-biggest U.S. oil company, announced plans this year to lay off up to 20 percent of its work force at the time, which would amount to around 9,000 people. Other companies have pursued smaller reductions.” [New York Times, [9/3/25](#)]

Texas Workforce Commission: Oil And Gas Upstream Jobs In Texas Dropped By Nearly 3,000 In June And July 2025. “Yet, the number of oil and gas upstream jobs in Texas and total U.S. oilfield service jobs has dropped in recent months amid lower oil prices and slowing drilling activity. Data from the Texas Workforce Commission showed upstream oil and natural gas employment fell by 1,400 in July compared to June, the Texas Oil & Gas Association (TXOGA) said in August. June’s job loss has been revised to 1,500—less severe than the previously estimated 2,700. Despite declines over the past two months, year-to-date growth remains positive at 4,300 upstream jobs, TXOGA noted.” [OilPrice.com, [9/13/25](#)]

Oil & Gas Watch Headline: “The Oil And Gas Industry Keeps Laying Off Workers As Trump Pushes 'Drill, Baby, Drill!'” [Oil & Gas Watch, [10/9/25](#)]

July 2025: Chevron Cut 200 Jobs In Midland, Texas, A Hub For Oil & Gas. “ExxonMobil is the latest major company to signal job cuts, announcing last week that it would trim its global workforce by 3-4 percent, or 2,000 jobs. Most of Exxon’s job cuts will be in Europe and Canada. However, other companies’ layoffs are already affecting U.S. employees. Chevron earlier this year said it planned to reduce its employees by 15-20 percent globally by the end of 2026, with about 200 people in the oil and gas hub of Midland, Texas, losing their jobs in July.” [Oil & Gas Watch, [10/9/25](#)]

Texas-Based ConocoPhillips, Diamondback Energy, And Latigo Petroleum Said Tariffs Caused Uncertainty And Raised Operating Costs

ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance Cited Inflation And Tariffs For Reduced Oil Demand And Price Increases For Equipment

ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance Said Inflation And Tariffs Were Slowing Down The Global Economy And Reducing Oil Demand. “Trump’s trade policies and tariffs have also pushed up costs of materials used in the industry such as steel and casings. ‘There is a sense of inflation coming up, tariffs are having an impact, so therefore the global economy is going to be slowing, and demand is going to go down,’ ConocoPhillips CEO Ryan Lance said during a town hall meeting on Thursday.” [Reuters, [9/8/25](#)]

- **ConocoPhillips: “Tariffs Have Introduced Some Level Of Uncertainty And That’s Manifesting With Internationally Sourced Equipment Alongside A Trend Of Inflation.”** “In a video message to employees announcing the layoffs, ConocoPhillips said controllable costs have risen by about \$2 per barrel to \$13 in 2024 from three years prior, making it harder for the company to compete. ‘Tariffs have introduced some level of uncertainty and that’s manifesting with internationally sourced equipment alongside a trend of inflation,’ the company said in August during its earnings call.” [Reuters, [9/8/25](#)]

Permian Basin Oil Driller Diamondback Said Supply Costs Increased Dramatically Due To Trump’s Tariffs

Permian Basin Oil Driller Diamondback Expected The Cost Of Steel Casing For Wells To Increase Almost 25% Through 2025 Due To Trump’s Tariffs. “Diamondback, another large driller in the Permian basin, said it expects the cost of steel casing for wells to increase almost 25% through the course of 2025 as Trump’s steel tariffs bite, raising the breakeven cost of nearly every well drilled in the United States this year. The company said operating costs had risen to 35% of total spending compared with about 20% historically.” [Reuters, [9/8/25](#)]

- **Diamondback Said Operating Costs Had Risen To 35% Of Total Spending Which Historically Hovered Around 20%.** “Diamondback, another large driller in the Permian basin, said it expects the cost of steel casing for wells to increase almost 25% through the course of 2025 as Trump’s steel tariffs bite, raising the breakeven cost of nearly every well drilled in the United States this year. The company said operating costs had risen to 35% of total spending compared with about 20% historically.” [Reuters, [9/8/25](#)]

Latigo Petroleum President/CEO Kirk Edwards Said The Oil Industry Was “In Shock” Because Trump’s Tariffs Raised Production Prices For American Companies And Emboldened OPEC

KMID Headline: “Texas Drilling Permits Drop 50% – Local Energy Expert To Weigh In On Trump Tariffs” [KMID, [5/14/25](#)]

Latigo Petroleum President/CEO Kirk Edwards: “I Think The Industry’s In Shock Because [President Trump] Had 100% Of The Oil And Gas Industry Behind Him.” “Texas drilling permits decreased 50% last month from a multiple of factors including President Trump’s tariffs and a decrease in oil prices. [...] ABC Big 2’s Chris Talley caught up with Kirk Edwards, a local energy expert, and President/CEO of Latigo Petroleum as he weighs in on President Trump’s recent effects on the Texas oil and gas industry. ‘I think the industry’s in shock because [President Trump] had 100% of the oil and gas industry behind him’, said Edwards. ‘Major, big independents, Diamondback, Koterra, EOG, Matador, have all announced they’re going to lay rigs down. They’re going to drop, two to three rigs apiece, and you start adding that up, it’s going to be a pretty significant hit to us here in the Permian,’ explained Edwards, President and CEO of Latigo Petroleum.” [KMID, [5/14/25](#)]

- **Edwards Said Oil Producers Were “Pulling Back Hard In Response To Lower Oil Prices, And OPEC’s Surprise Production Increases.”** “Odessa oilman Kirk Edwards says President Trump’s tariffs are having a disastrous effect on Texas’ energy industry, which has seen a 50% decrease in new drill permit applications during the past month. Edwards’ LinkedIn post on the topic had drawn more than 20,000 hits since his Tuesday participation in a panel discussion at the 5th Annual Oilfield Water Markets Conference in Dallas. Edwards, president-CEO of Latigo Petroleum, said the new permits ‘have fallen off a cliff.’ ‘That’s a clear sign that oil and gas operators are pulling back hard in response to lower oil prices, tariffs and OPEC’s surprise production increases, which jumped even more over the weekend,’ he said.” [Odessa American, [5/8/25](#)]
- **Edwards: Trump’s Tariffs Emboldened OPEC To Flood The Market With Oil While Driving Up The Cost Of Drilling Domestically.** “Now, with oil selling at middling prices and tariffs driving up the cost of drilling, Edwards acknowledges a stark ‘disconnect’ between the industry and Trump administration. He believes Trump’s tariffs have emboldened OPEC, the Saudi-controlled cartel of Middle Eastern and African oil exporters, to flood the market with oil.” [Houston Chronicle Editorial, [10/8/25](#)]

Texas Alliance Of Energy Producers Warned Of More Oilfield Layoffs As Companies Sought To Cut Costs

Odessa American Headline: “More Oilfield Layoffs Might Be Coming, Experts Say.” [Odessa American, [9/22/25](#)]

Texas Alliance Of Energy Producers President Karr Ingham Warned It Was “Certainly Possible” More Layoffs Were Coming, Citing Peaking Oil Production, Lower Oil Prices And Rising Costs. “Ingham, president of the Texas Alliance of Energy Producers, said it is certainly possible that more layoffs will be seen. ‘Some of that is already in process,’ Ingham said. ‘Chevron has announced cuts of 15-20% beginning in 2025 to be completed by year-end 2026. ‘Further, based on the information we have now it appears as though direct upstream oil and gas industry employment in Texas, which includes operators and producers, service companies and drilling companies, peaked in May of this year and has begun to decline since then. ‘As to the causes, both prices in 2025 and rising costs are playing a significant role in the announced layoffs. The ConocoPhillips CEO himself pointed to rising costs per barrel as a factor in the layoffs and clearly the crude oil price scenario is worse in 2025 compared to 2024 and the two years prior to that.’” [Odessa American, [9/22/25](#)]

Odessa American: Ingham Said Lower Revenues Combined With Rising Costs Produced An Imperative To Reduce Costs And “Shedding Jobs Is Often The Quickest, Most Manageable Way To Get That Done.”

“Ingham said lower revenues due to weaker pricing combined with rising costs are easily a recipe for the cost savings that companies will need to achieve this year and next year and that shedding jobs is often the quickest, most manageable way to get that done.” [Odessa American, [9/22/25](#)]

- **Ingham: “All These Things Are Happening In 2025, Putting Downward Pressure On Industry Employment In The State Of Texas.”** “Ingham said both ConocoPhillips and Chevron have made acquisitions fairly recently of the Marathon and Hess corporations respectively, which no doubt leads to

workforce trimming as well. ‘So all these things are happening in 2025, putting downward pressure on industry employment in the State of Texas,’ he said.” [Odessa American, [9/22/25](#)]

2026: Key Measurements Of Oil And Gas Production Indicated Steep Declines, Including In South Texas

2026: Oil Rig Counts Consistently Fell Compared To 2025

May 2026: The U.S. Rig Count Stood At 551, 25 Rigs Fewer Than In 2025. [Baker Hughes, [5/21/26](#)]

U.S. Rig Count

2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026

Data made available by Baker Hughes [Click for U.S. Frac Spread Count](#)

Date	Total Rigs 2026 (Wk./Wk.)	Oil (Wk./Wk.)	Gas (Wk./Wk.)	Misc. (Wk./Wk.)	Ratio (%) Oil/Gas/Misc.	Total Rigs 2025
05/15/2026	+3 551	+5 (415)	-1 (128)	-1 (8)	75 / 23 / 1	576
05/08/2026	+1 548	+2 (410)	-1 (129)	0 (9)	75 / 24 / 2	578
05/01/2026	+3 547	+1 (408)	+1 (130)	+1 (9)	75 / 24 / 2	584
04/24/2026	+1 544	-3 (407)	+4 (129)	0 (8)	75 / 24 / 1	587
04/17/2026	-2 543	-1 (410)	-2 (125)	+1 (8)	76 / 23 / 1	585
04/10/2026	-3 545	0 (411)	-3 (127)	0 (7)	75 / 23 / 1	583
04/02/2026	+5 548	+2 (411)	+3 (130)	0 (7)	75 / 24 / 1	590
03/27/2026	-9 543	-5 (409)	-4 (127)	0 (7)	75 / 23 / 1	592
03/20/2026	-1 552	+2 (414)	-2 (131)	-1 (7)	75 / 24 / 1	593
03/13/2026	-2 553	+1 (412)	+1 (133)	0 (8)	75 / 24 / 1	592
03/06/2026	+1 551	+4 (411)	-2 (132)	-1 (8)	75 / 24 / 1	592
02/27/2026	-1 550	-2 (407)	+1 (134)	0 (9)	74 / 24 / 2	593
02/20/2026	0 551	0 (409)	0 (133)	0 (9)	74 / 24 / 2	592
02/13/2026	0 551	-3 (409)	+3 (133)	0 (9)	74 / 24 / 2	588
02/06/2026	+5 551	+1 (412)	+5 (130)	-1 (9)	75 / 24 / 2	586
01/30/2026	+2 546	0 (411)	+3 (125)	-1 (10)	75 / 23 / 2	582
01/23/2026	+1 544	+1 (411)	0 (122)	0 (11)	76 / 22 / 2	576
01/16/2026	-1 543	+1 (410)	-2 (122)	0 (11)	76 / 22 / 2	580
01/09/2026	-2 544	-3 (409)	-1 (124)	+2 (11)	75 / 23 / 2	584

[Baker Hughes, [5/21/26](#)]

- **The U.S. Rig Count Measured The Number Of Active Oil And Gas Drilling Rigs Throughout The Country.** “US Rig Count is at a current level of 548.00, up from 546.00 last week and down from 585.00 one year ago. This is a change of 0.37% from last week and -6.32% from one year ago. US Rig Count, displays the number of active drilling rigs throughout the United States. The indicator is closely watched as a precursor to oil production in the US oil and gas production industry. Throughout the mid 2010s, US rig counts reached a low of 404 active drilling rigs in May 2016 following significant decreases in oil prices from previous years, then started to rebound as oil prices started to rise again and improvements in drilling technology made previously uneconomical oil deposits viable.” [YCharts, [11/7/25](#)]

May 2026: Active Oil Rigs Dropped By Over 12% From One Year Ago. “US Oil Rig Count is at a current level of 415.00, up from 410.00 last week and down from 474.00 one year ago. This is a change of 1.22% from last week and -12.45% from one year ago. The US Oil Rig Count measures the number of oil rigs functioning in the United States. This indicator is important to track because it can give an idea of how much oil production is occurring. Historically, US Oil Rigs peaked in late 2014. The total number of oil rigs reached as high as 1609 before being cut to just 325 within 2 years”. [Baker Hughes, [5/21/26](#)]

US Oil Rig Count (I:USORRNW)

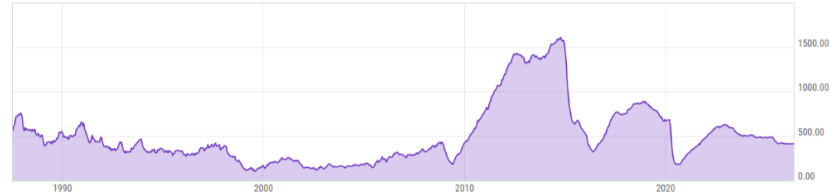
415.00 for Wk of May 15 2026

Overview

Interactive Chart

Level Chart

US OIL RIG COUNT (I:USORRNW) LEVEL CHART



[Baker Hughes, [5/21/26](#)]

- **The U.S. Oil Rig Count Measured Active Oil Rigs In The United States.** “The US Oil Rig Count measures the number of oil rigs functioning in the United States. This indicator is important to track because it can give an idea of how much oil production is occurring. Historically, US Oil Rigs peaked in late 2014. The total number of oil rigs reached as high as 1609 before being cut to just 325 within 2 years.” [YCharts, [11/7/25](#)]

May 2026: The U.S. Frac Spread Count, A Measure For Tracking Fracking Equipment And Activity, Experienced Sharp Drops Throughout The Year

May 2026: The US Frac Spread Count Consistently Underperformed 2025, With Some Weeks Falling Behind By As Much As 53. [Primary Vision, [5/21/26](#)]

Thursday, May 21, 2026

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REAL-TIME EPA FLARE MONITORING
HIGH ACCURACY, MOBILE, EPA CERTIFIED, AND NO CONSUMABLES

U.S. Frac Spread Count

2013 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026

Data made available by Primary Vision. [Click for U.S. Rig Count.](#)

Date	Total Frac Spreads	Total Frac Spreads (Week/Week)	Total Frac Spreads (Year/Year)
05/15/2026	+5	184 / 179	-9 (193)
05/08/2026	+5	179 / 174	-16 (195)
05/01/2026	+5	174 / 169	-27 (201)
04/24/2026	+4	169 / 165	-36 (205)
04/17/2026	-6	165 / 171	-35 (200)
04/10/2026	+5	171 / 166	-24 (195)
04/03/2026	+7	166 / 159	-39 (205)
03/27/2026	-5	159 / 164	-50 (209)
03/20/2026	-8	164 / 172	-51 (215)
03/13/2026	+2	172 / 170	-40 (212)
03/06/2026	+3	170 / 167	-40 (210)
02/27/2026	+7	167 / 160	-47 (214)
02/20/2026	+7	160 / 153	-50 (210)
02/13/2026	+8	153 / 145	-50 (203)
02/06/2026	-3	145 / 148	-53 (198)
01/30/2026	-15	148 / 163	-42 (190)
01/23/2026	+3	163 / 160	-20 (183)
01/16/2026	+4	160 / 156	-28 (188)
01/09/2026	+3	156 / 153	-39 (195)
01/02/2026	-1	153 / 154	-48 (201)

[Primary Vision, [5/21/26](#)]

May 2026: The South Texas-Based Eagle Ford Basin Experienced A 9% Drop In Oil Rigs

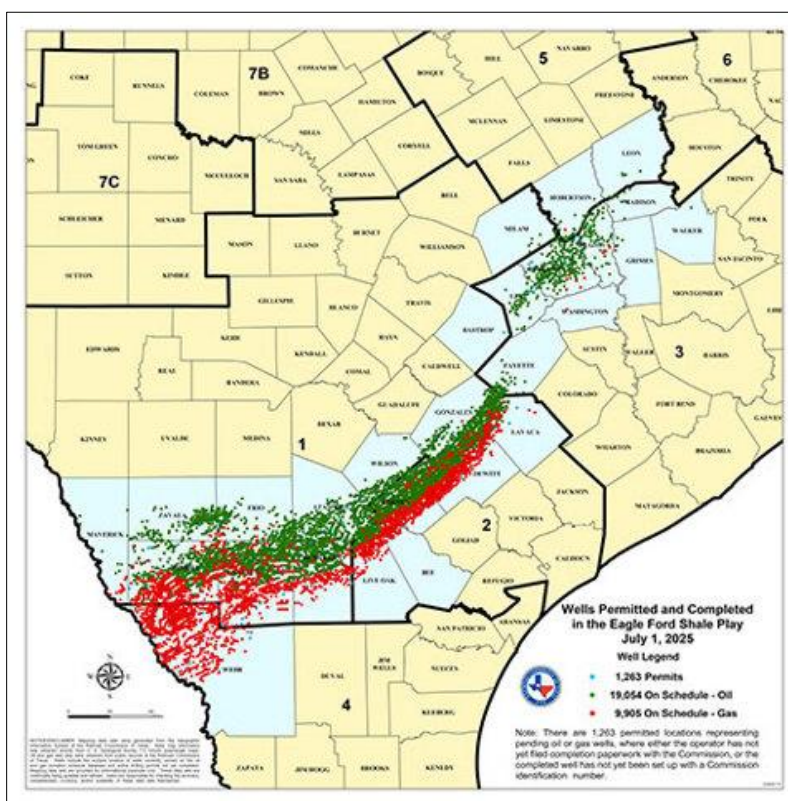
Baker Hughes: In May 2026, The Eagle Ford Basin Experienced A 9% Drop In Oil Rigs Compared To May 2025. [Baker Hughes North America Rig Count, [5/15/26](#)]

May 2026 Oil Rig Count By Basin							
Basin	15/May/26	08/May/26	Weekly chg	Weekly chg%	16/May/25	Weekl y Year Ago chg	Weekl y Year Ago chg%
Ardmore Woodford	2	2	0	0%	5	-3	-60%
Arkoma Woodford	1	1	0	0%	2	-1	-50%
Barnett	1	1	0	0%	2	-1	-50%
Cana Woodford	19	20	-1	-5%	21	-2	-10%
DJ-Niobrara	8	9	-1	-11%	5	3	60%
Eagle Ford	42	43	-1	-2%	46	-4	-9%
Fayetteville	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Granite Wash	17	17	0	0%	16	1	6%
Haynesville	56	58	-2	-3%	33	23	70%
Marcellus	24	25	-1	-4%	25	-1	-4%
Mississippian	0	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
Other	95	90	5	6%	95	0	0%
Permian	246	242	4	2%	282	-36	-13%
Utica	12	12	0	0%	11	1	9%
Williston	28	28	0	0%	33	-5	-15%
<i>United States</i>	<i>551</i>	<i>548</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1%</i>	<i>576</i>	<i>-25</i>	<i>-4%</i>

[Baker Hughes North America Rig Count, [5/15/26](#)]

The Eagle Ford Basin Stretched Across Texas From The Mexican Border Through South Texas To East Texas. “The Eagle Ford Shale is a hydrocarbon-producing geological formation of significant importance due to its capability of producing both natural gas and also more oil than other traditional shale plays. The shale play trends across Texas from the Mexican border into East Texas, roughly 50 miles wide and 400 miles long with an average thickness of 250 feet within Railroad Commission of Texas Districts 1 -6. It contains a much higher carbonate shale percentage, upwards to 70% in south Texas, and becomes shallower and the shale content increases as it moves to the northwest. The high percentage of carbonate makes it more brittle and therefore more conducive to hydraulic fracturing. It is Cretaceous in age resting between the Austin Chalk and the Buda Lime at a depth between 4,000 and 12,000 feet. It is the source rock for the Austin Chalk and the giant East Texas Field. The shale is named for the town of Eagle Ford, Texas, approximately 6 miles west of Dallas, Texas, where it can be seen on

the surface as clay soil. An outcrop of the Eagle Ford Shale can be seen in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.”
[Texas Railroad Commission, accessed [9/22/25](#)]



[Texas Railroad Commission, accessed [9/22/25](#)]

De La Cruz Defended Republicans’ Reckless Tariffs, And Repeatedly Voted To Keep Them In Place, Contradicting Her Pledge To Oppose Them

De La Cruz Repeatedly Voted To Stop Congress From Reining In Republicans’ Tariffs

February 2026: De La Cruz Voted Against Terminating The National Emergency That Imposed Tariffs On Goods From Canada. In February 2026, De La Cruz voted against: “Passage of the joint resolution that would terminate the Feb. 1, 2025, national emergency that imposed tariffs on goods from Canada.” The bill passed by a vote of 219-211. [H. J. Res. 72, [Vote #65](#), 2/11/26; CQ, [2/11/26](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Providing Consideration Of The Law-Enforcement Innovate To De-Escalate Act, The Undersea Cable Protection Act, The Securing America’s Critical Minerals Supply Act, And Blocking Consideration Of Joint Resolutions Terminating Trump’s Tariffs. In February 2026, De La Cruz voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 1042) providing for floor consideration of the Law-Enforcement Innovate to De-Escalate Act (HR 2189), the Undersea Cable Protection Act (HR 261), and the Securing America’s Critical Minerals Supply Act (HR 3617). The rule would allow for up to one hour of debate on each measure. It would consider as adopted a substitute amendment to HR 2189 appending the text of the Innovate Less Lethal to De-Escalate Tax Modernization Act (HR 4242), as reported by the Ways and Means Committee. It also would block the expedited consideration of joint resolutions terminating President Donald Trump's 2025 tariff actions under the Feb. 1, April 2, July 30, and Aug. 6 executive orders by providing that each day during the period from Feb. 10, 2026 through July 31, 2026, will not constitute a calendar day under the federal law pertaining to terminating national emergencies.” The resolution was rejected by a vote of 214-217. [H. Res. 1042, [Vote #60](#), 2/10/26; CQ, [2/10/26](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Keeping Trump's Tariffs In Place. In September 2025, De La Cruz{ {voted for: "Adoption of the rule (H Res 707) providing for floor consideration of four bills that would eliminate the ability of judges in D.C. from treating young adults charged with crimes as juveniles during sentencing (HR 4922), allow vehicular pursuit of a suspect fleeing in a motor vehicle (HR 5143), lower the age at which a juvenile can be charged as an adult for certain crimes from 16 to 14 years of age (HR 5140), and authorize the president to unilaterally make judicial nominations for D.C. courts (HR 5125). It would consider as adopted substitute amendments consisting of the respective texts of their Rules Committee prints. The rule would provide for up to one hour of debate on each measure. The resolution also would provide a closed rule for floor consideration of a bill (HR 1047) that would direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to streamline the procedures for processing requests to integrate new energy generation projects into existing transmission systems; a bill (HR 3015) that would reestablish, and codify, the National Coal Council in the Energy Department; and a bill (HR 3062) that would specify that an entity could not construct or operate a border-crossing facility that imports or exports oil or natural gas or transmits electricity across a U.S. international border without a certificate of crossing. It would consider as adopted a substitute amendment to HR 1407 consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119-9, as well as a substitute amendments to HR 3015 and HR 3062 recommended by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It would provide for up to one hour of debate on each measure. The resolution would further provide that in the engrossment of a House-passed digital assets bill (HR 3633), the House clerk would add the text of another House-passed measure (HR 1919) that would prevent a central bank cryptocurrency as a new matter at the end of the assets bill. It would provide that the clerk make technical corrections based on the change. The resolution also would allow for the tolling (the pausing of counting) of days for resolutions of inquiry from Sept. 30, 2025 through March 31, 2026. It also would provide that each day during the period from April 9, 2025, through March 31, 2026, would not constitute a calendar day for the purposes of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act with respect to a joint resolution to terminate President Donald Trump's April 2, 2025 executive order declaring a national emergency regarding tariffs on imported goods. The resolution also would provide that during the period for March 11, 2025 through March 31, 2026, would not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act with respect to a joint resolution terminating a national emergency executive order declared by President Trump on Feb. 1, 2025. Such an executive order concerned tariffs on many Canadian and Mexican imports and Chinese goods. The resolution also would provide that the provisions of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act would not apply through March 31, 2026 to a joint resolution terminating the national emergency." The bill passed 213 to 211. [H Res 707, [Vote #268](#), 9/16/25; CQ, [9/16/25](#)]

September 2025: De La Cruz Voted For A Motion To Discharge From The House Foreign Affairs Committee The Joint Resolution That Would Terminate The National Emergency Declared By President Donald Trump On July 30, 2025, Which Imposed An Additional 40 Percent Tariff On Certain Goods Imported From Brazil. In September 2025, De La Cruz voted for: "Mast, R-Fla., motion to table the Meeks, D-N.Y., motion to discharge from the House Foreign Affairs Committee the joint resolution that would terminate the national emergency declared by President Donald Trump on July 30, 2025, which imposed an additional 40 percent tariff on certain goods imported from Brazil." The motion was agreed by a vote of 200-198. [H J Res 117, [Vote #265](#), 9/15/25; CQ, [9/15/25](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Blocking Expedited Consideration Of Joint Resolutions Terminating Trump's Tariff Actions And Considering The Senate Amendment To The FY 2025 Budget Resolution. In April 2025, De La Cruz voted for "Adoption of the rule (H Res 313) that would provide for floor consideration of the Senate amendment to the fiscal 2025 budget resolution (H Con Res 14). The rule would provide up to one hour of debate on a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the measure. It also would block the expedited consideration of joint resolutions terminating President Donald Trump's tariff actions under the April 2 executive order by providing that each day during the period from April 9, 2025 through Sept. 30, 2025, will not constitute a calendar day under the federal law pertaining to terminating national emergencies." The rule was adopted by a vote of 216-215. [H. Res. 313, [Vote #94](#), 4/9/25; CQ, [4/9/25](#)]

April 2025: House Republicans Passed A Rule By One Vote Preventing The House From Repealing Trump's Tariffs Through September. "House Republicans are exhausting all legislative tools to prevent future votes on repealing President Donald Trump's tariffs -- doubling down on their support for the administration's policies as lawmakers narrowly passed a procedural hurdle to advance the Senate-approved GOP blueprint by a vote of 216-

215. GOP leaders on Wednesday inserted language into the ‘rule’ for the budget blueprint that would prohibit the House, until at least September, from forcing a vote on legislation to rescind Trump’s national emergencies authority. ‘The rule provides that each day during the period from April 9, 2025, through September 30, 2025, shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 202 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622) with respect to a joint resolution terminating a national emergency declared by the President on April 2, 2025,’ the rule states.” [ABC News, [4/9/25](#)]

- **April 2025: De La Cruz Provided The Decisive Vote For A Rule Blocking Congress From Repealing Trump’s Tariffs For Five Months.** In April 2025, De La Cruz voted for: “Foyxx, R-N.C., motion to order the previous question (thus ending debate and possibility of amendment) on the rule (H Res 313) that would providing for floor consideration of the Senate amendment to the fiscal 2025 budget resolution (H Con Res 14). The rule would provide up to one hour of debate on a motion to concur in the Senate amendment to the measure. It also would block the expedited consideration of joint resolutions terminating President Donald Trump’s tariff actions under the April 2 executive order by providing that each day during the period from April 9, 2025 through Sept. 30, 2025, will not constitute a calendar day under the federal law pertaining to terminating national emergencies. Motion agreed to 217-212.” [H Res 313, [Vote #93](#), [4/9/25](#); CQ, [4/9/25](#)]

De La Cruz Voted For Keeping Trump’s Tariffs In Place. In March 2025, De La Cruz voted for: “Adoption of the rule (H Res 211) that would provide for floor consideration of the fiscal 2025 full-year continuing appropriations bill (HR 1968); the Pandemic Unemployment Fraud Enforcement Act (HR 1156); and the joint resolution (H J Res 25) providing for congressional disapproval of an Internal Revenue Service rule relating to digital asset sales. It would provide up to one hour of general debate on each measure. It would self-execute the Cole, R-Okla., manager’s amendment to HR 1968 that would make technical corrections. The rule would also block expedited consideration of joint resolutions to terminate national emergencies declared by President Donald Trump on Feb. 1, 2025, by specifying that each day for the remainder of the first session of the 119th Congress will not be considered a calendar day under the National Emergencies Act.” The rule was adopted by a vote of 216-214. [H Res 211, [Vote #67](#), [3/11/25](#); CQ, [3/11/25](#)]

De La Cruz Said On Her Campaign Website She Would Oppose Harmful Tariffs

De La Cruz’s Website Said She Would “Oppose Tariffs That Hinder American Farmers From Reaching New Customers.” “Eliminate regulations on farmers and ranchers that prohibit economic prosperity Oppose tariffs that hinder American farmers from reaching new customers Ensure that ranchers and farmers get reimbursed funds for confirmed damages due to illegal immigrant traffic Fix the supply chain crisis to allow smooth exports of American agricultural products” [De La Cruz campaign website, accessed [9/22/25](#)]

Monica on the Issues

— Agriculture

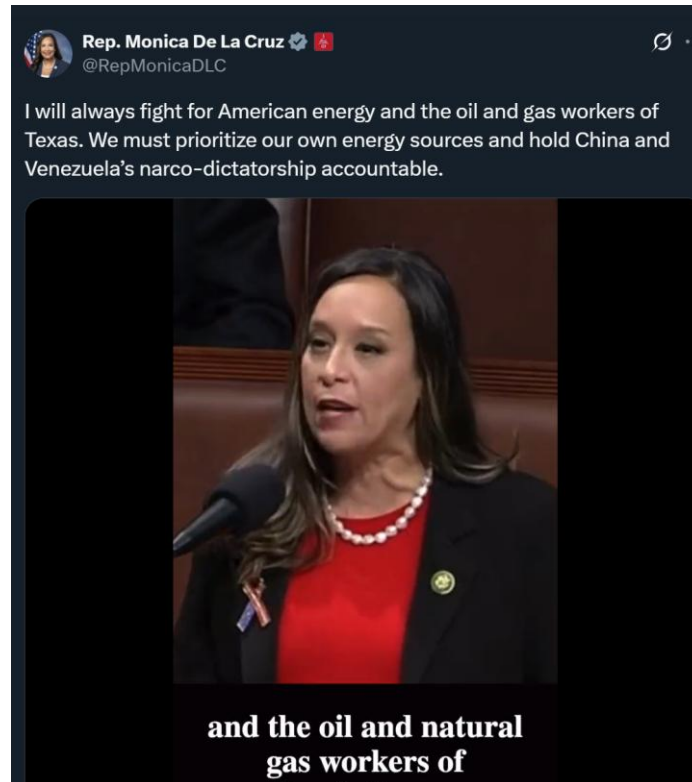
- Eliminate regulations on farmers and ranchers that prohibit economic prosperity
- Oppose tariffs that hinder American farmers from reaching new customers
- Ensure that ranchers and farmers get reimbursed funds for confirmed damages due to illegal immigrant traffic
- Fix the supply chain crisis to allow smooth exports of American agricultural products

[De La Cruz campaign website, accessed [9/22/25](#)]

De La Cruz Said She Would Protect Texas Oil Jobs And Energy

In Speeches, Social Media Posts, And On Her Campaign Website, De La Cruz Pledged To Defend Texas Energy And Oil Jobs

De La Cruz Pledged To “Always Fight For American Energy And The Oil And Gas Workers Of Texas.” “I will always fight for American energy and the oil and gas workers of Texas. We must prioritize our own energy sources and hold China and Venezuela’s narco-dictatorship accountable.” [Rep. Monica De La Cruz, Twitter, [1/12/23](#)]



[Rep. Monica De La Cruz, Twitter, [1/12/23](#)]

De La Cruz Said She Would “Support Oil And Natural Gas Jobs” On Her Campaign Website. “End regulations that increase the cost of energy Support oil and natural gas jobs Invest in American energy to be energy independent once again Improve air quality and reduce pollution through technology Support safe and efficient use of nuclear energy Reject radical socialist Green New Deal policies” [De La Cruz Campaign Website, accessed [9/22/25](#)]

Monica on the Issues	
+ Agriculture	
+ Border Security and Immigration	
+ Economy	
- Energy	• End regulations that increase the cost of energy • Support oil and natural gas jobs • Invest in American energy to be energy independent once again • Improve air quality and reduce pollution through technology • Support safe and efficient use of nuclear energy • Reject radical socialist Green New Deal policies
+ Seniors	
+ Spending and National Debt	

[De La Cruz Campaign Website, accessed [9/22/25](#)]

De La Cruz: “A Vote For MONICA Is A VOTE To KEEP Your Oil Field Job!!!” “A Vote for MONICA is a VOTE to KEEP your Oil Field Job!!! #Vote #Monicaforcongress #Vote #ToKeepYourJob #RememberThatTEXAS” [Monica De La Cruz, Facebook, [10/22/20](#)]



[Monica De La Cruz, Facebook, [10/22/20](#)]

De La Cruz Campaigned On Promises To Keep Oilfield Jobs Alive. “Like your GUNS? ☒ Want to KEEP your OIL FIELD JOBS?? ☒ Help us take back the HOUSE in 2020!! ☐ VOTE REPUBLICAN!!! usus #Vote #MonicaForCongress Early Voting begins Monday, June 29th!!! Donate \$15 to flip CD15 TODAY at www.monicaforcongress.us” [Monica De La Cruz, Facebook, [6/23/20](#)]



[Monica De La Cruz, Facebook, [6/23/20](#)]

Venezuelan Oil Could Further Reduce The Price Of Oil And Stall Companies' Domestic Investments

January 2026: The Introduction Of More Venezuelan Oil Was Predicted To Exacerbate Price Pressures On An Oil Market Reeling From Slower Economic Growth

Global Oil Prices Faced Downward Pressure Because Of An Overabundance Of Oil Even Before The U.S. Captured And Removed Nicolas Maduro From Power In Venezuela. “Oil prices fell on Tuesday as the market weighed expectations of ample global supply this year against uncertainty around Venezuelan crude output after the U.S. capture of Nicolas Maduro, the South American country's leader. Brent crude futures fell \$1.06, or 1.7%, to settle at \$60.70 a barrel, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude fell \$1.19, or 2%, to \$57.13 a barrel. ‘It is premature to evaluate the impact of Nicolas Maduro's capture on the oil balance. What seems obvious, nonetheless, is that oil supply will be sufficient in 2026, with or without an increase in production from the OPEC member,’ said Tamas Varga, an analyst at PVM Oil.” [Reuters, [1/6/26](#)]

The Potential Ending Of U.S. Sanctions And Increased Production Of Venezuelan Oil Could Further Exacerbate Price Pressures On Oil. “Price pressure could be exacerbated by the U.S. capture of Maduro on Saturday and its potential to hasten an end to a U.S. embargo on Venezuelan oil, leading to higher output. Market participants were also debating the future trajectory of Venezuelan supply after U.S. President Donald Trump claimed U.S. oil companies were ready to invest in the South American country to boost its production and exports. U.S. oil company CEOs are expected to visit the White House as early as Thursday to discuss investments in Venezuela, according to three sources familiar with the planning. Venezuela's oil sector has long been in decline, due in part to underinvestment and U.S. sanctions. Oil production from the country averaged 1.1 million bpd last year.” [Reuters, [1/6/26](#)]

Marex Analyst Ed Meir: “I Think If The Trump Playbook Even Partially Comes To Pass, Venezuelan Crude Oil Production Should Increase. Should It Increase, There Will Be More Pressure On An Already Oversupplied Market.” “Venezuela, a founding member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), holds the world’s largest proven oil reserves at around 303 billion barrels. Despite this, its oil industry has suffered a prolonged decline due to years of under-investment, mismanagement and sweeping US sanctions. Last year, Venezuela’s average oil output stood at about 1.1 million barrels per day, a fraction of its

historical capacity. That figure could change materially if political conditions stabilise and sanctions are eased. ‘I think if the Trump playbook even partially comes to pass, Venezuelan crude oil production should increase,’ said Ed Meir, analyst at Marex. ‘Should it increase, there will be more pressure on an already oversupplied market.’” [ABP Live, [1/6/26](#)]

A December 2025 Reuters Poll Of Oil Market Participants Showed They Already Expected Crude Prices To Remain Under Strain In 2026 Due To Economic Uncertainty And Slower Growth. “The pressure on oil prices is not limited to Venezuela. A Reuters poll conducted in December showed that market participants already expected crude prices to remain under strain in 2026 due to a combination of rising supply and subdued demand. Economic uncertainty, slower global growth and energy transition trends have all dampened consumption growth, particularly in major economies. Against this backdrop, even incremental supply additions can have an outsized impact on prices.” [ABP Live, [1/6/26](#)]

Citi Client Note: “Longer Term, The US Administration’s Stated Desire To Drive Up Venezuelan Oil Supply Is Likely To Provide A Net Bearish Impulse To The Market.” “‘Longer term, the US administration’s stated desire to drive up Venezuelan oil supply is likely to provide a net bearish impulse to the market,’ Citi said in a client note, highlighting the structural downside risks facing crude.” [ABP Live, [1/6/26](#)]

Some Republicans From Texas And Other Oil-Producing States, But Not De La Cruz, Warned That Venezuelan Oil Could Negatively Impact The American Oil Sector

Republican Members Of Congress From North Dakota And Wyoming Spoke Out Against The Unmeasured Importation Of Venezuelan Oil, Warning That It Could Hurt Domestic Producers. “In the days since the administration arrested Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, GOP lawmakers have by and large backed the operation — including Trump’s plans to control Venezuela’s oil exports and encourage American oil companies to renew their presence in the country. But some Republicans have begun sounding the alarm about what an influx of foreign oil could mean for American oil producers. ‘I’ve certainly heard from our small producers in North Dakota that they are worried,’ Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-N.D.) said Wednesday. ‘It’s important to our state, and the states like North Dakota really suffer when prices get too low. We definitely like to see ... a higher price per barrel. And importing more doesn’t get us there.’ North Dakota is a center of production for light oil, which is refined through separate processes than the heavier crude from Latin America. North Dakota Republican Sen. Kevin Cramer has spent the past days arguing that refineries should keep a focus on that lighter American oil, rather than gearing up for more Venezuelan oil. ‘Venezuela’s gain should not come from the American producer,’ Cramer said in a social media post. Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) similarly said that focus should stay on American energy. ‘I can see the temptation to encourage the development of Venezuelan refining capacity and energy development. They have an incredible resource. It’s just phenomenal. But not at the expense of U.S. energy,’ Lummis said in an interview.” [Politico, [1/8/26](#)]

Texas Republican Reps. August Pfluger And Brian Babin Expressed Cautious Optimism About Venezuelan Oil, Stressing That The Administration Needed To Simultaneously Protect American Oil Jobs. “Republican lawmakers from refinery-heavy districts welcomed Trump’s new posture toward Venezuelan oil. Some, like Rep. August Pfluger (R-Texas), also urged caution as the situation in Venezuela evolves. ‘Many of the refineries that we have on the Gulf Coast are tooled toward the specific gravity weight of Venezuelan oil,’ Pfluger said. ‘We’ll see what transpires with that renewed flow.’ Rep. Brian Babin (R-Texas) said that Trump should ‘put Venezuelan oil to work for our country,’ noting that his district contains refineries specially built for heavy crude like Venezuela’s. But he, like Cramer and Lummis, cautioned that any investment in Venezuelan oil by the Trump administration needed to center American benefits. ‘If Venezuelan oil is going to flow again, it should be refined on American soil, by American workers, strengthening American energy dominance. Any policy shift must put national security first, protect U.S. jobs, and reinforce the long-term strength of our domestic energy markets,’ Babin said in a statement.” [Politico, [1/8/26](#)]

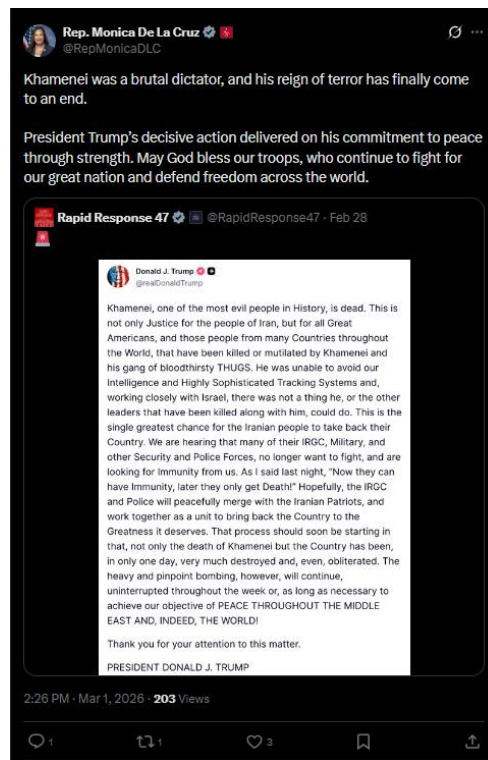
NOTE: As of July 14, 2026, Rep. Monica De La Cruz has not issued a statement commenting on the potential effects of Venezuelan oil in the United States’ oil industry.

De La Cruz Supported The Iran War, Which Caused The Cost Of Fertilizer To Skyrocket, Raising Costs For Farmers In South Texas And Increased The Price Of Gas In The State

March 2026: De La Cruz Supported Strikes On Iran

De La Cruz Praised Trump's Strikes On Iran That Resulted In The Death Of Ayatollah Khamenei.

"Khamenei was a brutal dictator, and his reign of terror has finally come to an end. President Trump's decisive action delivered on his commitment to peace through strength. May God bless our troops, who continue to fight for our great nation and defend freedom across the world." [Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [3/1/26](#)]



[Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [3/1/26](#)]

De La Cruz Praised Trump's Decision To Attack Iran, Saying That Iran Had Been "Given Every Opportunity To Come To The Table To Make A Deal" But Refused. "U.S. Representative District 15, Monica De La Cruz, took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to post the following statement: 'Tonight, President Trump spoke with strength. Iran was given every opportunity to come to the table to make a deal on their nuclear capabilities, yet refused. I remain confident in the Administration's commitment to protecting democracy, the American people, our national security, and our allies,' said Representative Monica De La Cruz." [ValleyCentral, [6/22/25](#)]

The Iran War Made The Price Of Gas Skyrocket Just Weeks After De La Cruz Touted The Low Price Of Gas In South Texas

May 2026: Gas Prices Increased 50% Since The Start Of The Iran War

Gas Prices Increased 50% Since The Start Of The Iran War. "The price of a gallon of regular gasoline climbed 31 cents in the past week, spiking to an average of \$4.48 per gallon Tuesday, according to AAA, hitting the wallets of drivers after rising 50% since the war with Iran began. The main reason drivers are paying more at the pump is because of the global energy crisis caused by the Iran War. The price of crude oil, which is the main ingredient in gasoline, has been climbing for most of the past two months because the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow passage of

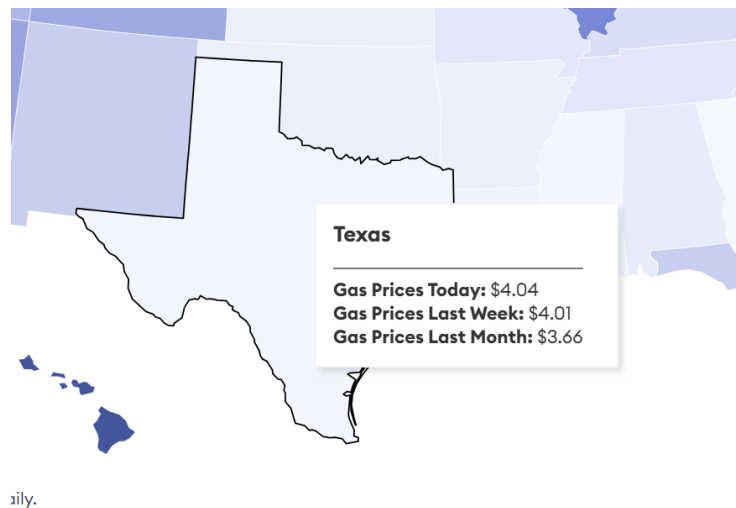
the Persian Gulf through which a fifth of the world's crude oil normally passes, has effectively been shut, and oil tankers have been stranded there unable to deliver crude.” [PBS, [5/5/26](#)]

May 2026: Gas Prices Were Near \$5. “Rising gas prices are changing the driving behavior of many Americans, according to a new poll released by ABC News, The Washington Post, and Ipsos. The poll conducted among 2,560 U.S. adults between April 24-28, found that 44% of respondents had cut back on driving due to high gas prices. The finding comes as gas prices rose to an average of \$4.55 per gallon on May 7, up from \$4.30 a week earlier on April 30, according to AAA. ‘U.S. gas price scorecard for May 6- \$3.99/gal is no longer the most common price in the U.S., and now the top 10% of gas stations average over \$6/gal,’ Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, wrote in an X post.” [USA Today, [5/7/26](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Gas Prices Near \$5 Are Changing How Americans Drive, New Poll Finds.”** [USA Today, [5/7/26](#)]

Forbes: May 20, 2026: The Average Price Of Gas In Texas Was \$4.04

Forbes: May 20, 2026: The Average Price Of Gas In Texas Was \$4.04. [Forbes, [5/20/26](#)]

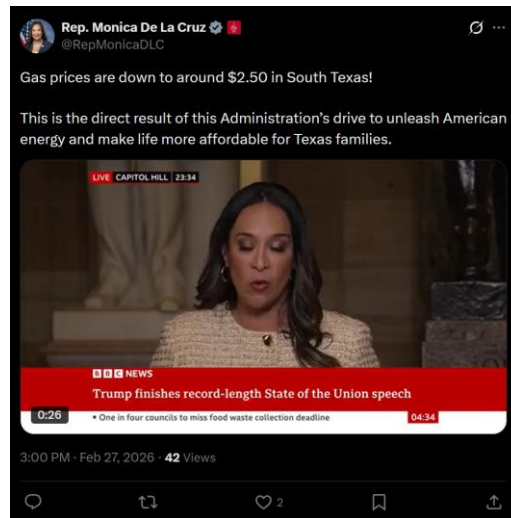


[Forbes, [5/20/26](#)]

- **Fox 4 KDFW Headline: “Texas Gas Prices Rise As National Average Spikes Again.”** [Fox 4 KDFW, [5/1/26](#)]

February 2026: De La Cruz Said Low Gas Prices Were The Result Of Trump’s “Drive To Unleash American Energy”

February 2026: De La Cruz Said Low Gas Prices Were The Result Of Trump’s “Drive To Unleash American Energy.” “Gas prices are down to around \$2.50 in South Texas! This is the direct result of this Administration’s drive to unleash American energy and make life more affordable for Texas families.” [Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [2/27/26](#)]



[Twitter, @RepMonicaDLC, [2/27/26](#)]

Since The U.S. And Israel Launched Strikes On Iran The Price Of Fertilizer “Skyrocketed,” Impacting The Operations Cost Of Texas Farmers Which Could Lead To Higher Food Prices

The Price Of Fertilizer “Skyrocketed” After The U.S. And Israel Launched Strikes On Iran

NPR: Iran War Caused A Fertilizer Price Hike. “Gulf states are major fertilizer producers, and the war with Iran has triggered a 25% price hike, just as struggling U.S. farmers are planting corn.” [NPR, [3/23/26](#)]

CNBC: Since The U.S. And Israel And Launched Strikes On Iran The Price Of Fertilizer “Skyrocketed.” “Since the U.S. and Israel launched strikes on Iran on Feb. 28, the price of fertilizer — much of which is produced in the Middle East — has skyrocketed. Fertilizer futures contracts are less liquid than other commodities, making prices more opaque. But analysts working in the sector told CNBC that they had seen the cost of FOB granular urea in Egypt — a bellwether of nitrogen fertilizers — jump to around \$700 per metric ton, up from \$400 to \$490 before the war began. In a Monday note, Oxford Economics’ Alpine Macro said urea and ammonia prices had surged by around 50% and 20%, respectively, since the war began. Other fertilizers, like potash and sulfur, have also risen in price.” [CNBC, [3/25/26](#)]

- **CNN Headline: “Fertilizer Prices Bring More Pain For American Farmers Amid War In Iran.”** [CNN, [3/23/26](#)]
- **CNBC Headline: “It’s Not Just Oil And Gas. The Strait Of Hormuz Blockage Is Rattling Another Vital Commodity.”** [CNBC, [3/25/26](#)]

Fertilizer Prices Increased Between 25% To 50% Because Of The Iran War. “Weather is just one factor farmers have to deal with that is beyond their control. Prinz says decisions made by elected officials can also have a significant impact, the war in Iran being one of them. ‘What we have in the field right now has not been affected yet, but all the corn, even behind us, will need another application,’ Prinz said. He’s referring to another application of fertilizer, with its price tag spiking since the start of the conflict at the end of February. Shipments of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers from the Middle East have been crippled. ‘Across the board, fertilizer prices are up about 25%,’ said Mark Welch with Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service. ‘There are some dry formulations of nitrogen fertilizer, of which the Middle East is a key source of that, and it’s up about 50%, so it’s a significant increase.’” [Spectrum News 1, [4/8/26](#)]

Texas Farm Bureau: Texas Farmers Were Hit Especially Hard By Rising Fertilizer Prices And Cannot Afford All The Fertilizer They Need This Year

Texas Farm Bureau: Texas Farmers Were Hit Especially Hard By The Rising Fertilizer Prices. “Texas farmers are feeling the strain as fertilizer prices, along with other production inputs, continue to rise. And a new survey shows that many farmers can’t afford to purchase enough fertilizer to get them through the year. The survey, conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) April 3-11, shows fertilizer costs are stretching farm budgets nationwide, and the impact is hitting Southern farmers especially hard. Nearly eight in 10 farmers in the South reported they can’t afford all the fertilizer they need this year. That’s higher than any other region in the U.S. By comparison, 69% of farmers in the Northeast, 68% in the West and 48% in the Midwest reported the same challenge. [...] Global factors are driving much of the increase. Conflict in the Middle East and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have limited the flow of fertilizer ingredients and fuel, pushing prices higher worldwide. Since tensions escalated, nitrogen fertilizer prices have climbed more than 30%, and some products have seen even sharper spikes.” [Texas Farm Bureau, [4/14/26](#)]

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- **Texas Farm Bureau: “Conflict In The Middle East And Disruptions In The Strait Of Hormuz Have Limited The Flow Of Fertilizer Ingredients And Fuel, Pushing Prices Higher Worldwide.”** “Texas farmers are feeling the strain as fertilizer prices, along with other production inputs, continue to rise. And a new survey shows that many farmers can’t afford to purchase enough fertilizer to get them through the year. The survey, conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) April 3-11, shows fertilizer costs are stretching farm budgets nationwide, and the impact is hitting Southern farmers especially hard. Nearly eight in 10 farmers in the South reported they can’t afford all the fertilizer they need this year. That’s higher than any other region in the U.S. By comparison, 69% of farmers in the Northeast, 68% in the West and 48% in the Midwest reported the same challenge. [...] Global factors are driving much of the increase. Conflict in the Middle East and disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have limited the flow of fertilizer ingredients and fuel, pushing prices higher worldwide. Since tensions escalated, nitrogen fertilizer prices have climbed more than 30%, and some products have seen even sharper spikes.” [Texas Farm Bureau, [4/14/26](#)]
- **Texas Farm Bureau Headline: “Texas Farmers Can’t Afford Rising Fertilizer Costs.”** [Texas Farm Bureau, [4/14/26](#)]
- **Roll Call: “Higher Fertilizer Prices Pressure Trump-Loyal US Farmers.”** [Roll Call, [5/11/26](#)]

Farmers Warned The Cost Of Food Will Go Up As Fertilizer Costs Increase

Local Farmers In South Texas Said The Effects Of Higher Fertilizer Prices Were Already Being Felt And Cutting Into Their Operations. “Local farmers say the effects are already being felt in South Texas, where higher fertilizer prices and increased diesel costs are cutting into operations. ‘Rain that we got last Sunday, Easter Sunday, Saturday night and Sunday. That will probably bring a lot of these crops up. So maybe we have a chance now,’ said Scott Frazier, a longtime South Texas farmer who is also a board member of the Nueces County Farm Bureau. Frazier, who has more than four decades of experience growing crops such as corn, cotton and grain sorghum, said this year’s planting season has been especially difficult. ‘Most of our fertilizer we generally put out November, December, January. Back then our fertilizer prices were approximately \$300 a ton depending on the blend that you get, give or take a few bucks, but around \$300,’ Frazier said. ‘Today, that same blend is probably

\$450 if they have it in stock locally. If they have to ship in product, they said it'd be well over \$500.' Some fertilizers are imported, making them even more expensive and harder to obtain." [KIII 3 News, [4/10/26](#)]

- **KIII 3 News Headline: "Rising Fertilizer, Fuel Costs Impact South Texas Farmers Amid War With Iran."** [KIII 3 News, [4/10/26](#)]
- **Fertilizer Prices Accounted For Nearly One-Fifth Of U.S. Farm Cash Costs.** "Global fertilizer prices are at near record levels and may remain elevated throughout 2022 and beyond. Fertilizer prices account for nearly one-fifth of U.S. farm cash costs, with an even greater share for corn and wheat producers. Fertilizer accounts for 36 percent of a farmer's operating costs for corn, and 35 percent for wheat. These elevated prices could have implications for crop production in 2022 and 2023. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has exacerbated the already limited fertilizer supply situation and has triggered import-export restrictions that will compound shortage concerns." [USDA, [6/30/22](#)]

Increased Fertilizer Costs Were Contributing To Higher Food Prices. "The multitude of overlapping challenges is already causing food prices to rise. While tariff pain was partially contained to specific categories of food, rising fuel and fertilizer prices promise across-the-board increases, Volpe said. The USDA's latest price forecast, published in March, projected food prices will rise 3.6% in 2026, up from 3.1% predicted in February. And if drought conditions persist to the point that crops start failing, reduced yields could lead to higher prices for livestock feed, snowballing into more expensive meat and dairy products for years. Today, beef inflation rapidly outpaces regular food inflation due, in part, to severe drought conditions starting in 2022 that raised feed prices and discouraged farmers from breeding cattle. Michigan State's Ortega said longer, unseasonable, and more severe droughts are becoming more frequent partly because of human-induced climate change. Farmers have some protection from adverse weather in the form of crop insurance, when the government compensates for failed harvests and lost revenue. But if fuel or fertilizer become too expensive, farmers are often on their own. Higher input costs and food prices can follow, and the whole country ends up on the hook." [PBS, [4/6/26](#)]

- **PBS Headline: "Farmers Warn Of Food Price Spike As War Drives Up Fuel And Fertilizer Costs."** [PBS, [4/6/26](#)]

De La Cruz Was Accused Of Abusing Her Former Stepdaughter

2021-2022: De La Cruz Divorced Her Husband, Juan Hernandez

De La Cruz And Juan Hernandez Were Married In 2015 And Divorced In 2022

November 22, 2015: Juan Gabriel Hernandez And Monica De La Cruz Were Married In Hidalgo County, Texas. [Hidalgo County Clerk, Marriage Records, [11/22/15](#)]

October 5, 2021: Hernandez Filed For Divorce From His Marriage To De La Cruz. [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Petition for Divorce, [10/5/21](#)]

May 19, 2022: De La Cruz And Hernandez's Divorce Was Finalized. "IT IS ORDERED AND DECREED that Juan Gabriel Hernandez, Petitioner, and Monica De La Cruz, Respondent, are divorced and that the marriage between them is dissolved on the ground of insupportability." [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil, Family & Probate Case Records, Decree of Divorce, [5/19/22](#)]

October 2021: Hernandez Accused De La Cruz Of "Cruel And Aggressive Treatment" And Being "Verbally Abusive" Towards His Daughter, Damaging Her "Precarious" Mental Health

Hernandez Alleged De La Cruz Was “Verbally Abusive” Towards His Daughter And Damaged Her “Mental Well Being”

De La Cruz’s Ex-Husband Alleged That De La Cruz Verbally Abused Her Former Stepchild To Stop Her From Crying. “A Republican congressional candidate who was just described as a promising ‘young gun’ by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy was accused of ‘cruel and aggressive conduct’ toward her estranged husband’s 14-year-old daughter. Court records obtained by The Washington Post reveal that Monica De La Cruz, who’s running in Texas’ 15th Congressional District, is accused of verbal abuse and pinching the child to stop her from crying. The accusations come from De La Cruz’s husband, Johnny Hernandez, who petitioned for the divorce. ‘In one incident described in the petition for divorce, Hernandez says that on a recent Sunday at church, his daughter began crying after some coffee was spilled. He alleges that De La Cruz took her to the bathroom and pinched her to stop her from crying, rather than try to console her,’ the Post reported.” [Newsweek, [11/9/21](#)]

- **Hernandez Alleged De La Cruz Was “Guilty Of Cruel Treatment Toward Petitioner Of SA Nature That Renders Further Living Together Insupportable.”** [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition For Divorce, [10/5/21](#)]
- **Hernandez Alleged That De La Cruz Was “Verbally Abusive” To His Daughter And Damaged Her “Mental Well Being.”** “She is verbally abusive to my daughter, and for that reason, I am asking the Court to award me exclusive use and possession of the family home for the use of myself and my daughter for the stability of my daughter at this time. Petitioner and Respondent have been engaged in arguments and disagreements which damage the mental well being of my fourteen year old daughter.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Sworn Declaration, [10/5/21](#)]
- **Mariella Hernandez, Juan Hernandez’s Daughter And De La Cruz’s Stepdaughter, Was Born July 18, 2008.** “Juan Gabriel Hernandez is the parent of Mariella Hernandez whose date of birth is July 18, 2008.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Premarital Agreement, filed [12/20/21](#)]

Hernandez Said His Daughter Was In A “Precarious, Delicate State Of Mental Health” And Had Been Hospitalized For “Suicidal Ideations And Depression.” “I have a daughter who is not a child of this marriage. There are no children of this marriage. My daughter is in a precarious, delicate state of mental health and has recently been hospitalized for suicidal ideations and depression.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Sworn Declaration, [10/5/21](#)]

Hernandez Claimed His Daughter “Suffers From Anxiety” Whenever De La Cruz Is Around Her. “Petitioner has been told by his daughter that she suffers from anxiety whenever Respondent is around her.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, First Amended Petition, [10/7/21](#)]

Hernandez Requested And Was Granted A Temporary Restraining Order On The Basis Of De La Cruz’s “Cruel And Aggressive Treatment” Towards Her Stepdaughter

Hernandez Requested A Restraining Order On The Basis Of De La Cruz’s “Cruel And Aggressive Treatment” Towards Her Stepdaughter. “Respondent is guilty of cruel treatment toward Petitioner of a nature that renders further living together insupportable. Respondent is further guilty of cruel and aggressive treatment towards Petitioner’s only daughter, who is not subject to this suit, but serves as the basis for the request for Petitioner’s Restraining Order.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, First Amended Petition, [10/7/21](#)]

- **Hernandez Requested A Restraining Order Against De La Cruz In His Divorce Petition.** “In his divorce petition, Hernandez requested a restraining order against De La Cruz, but sought to remain in the couple’s home

with his daughter. Hernandez cited ‘cruel treatment’ by De La Cruz towards him and his daughter from a previous relationship, who is a minor. He described an incident between his wife and daughter after the girl was in tears over coffee spilled at church. ‘Rather than try to console her,’ Hernandez said, referring to the crying girl, De La Cruz ‘took her to the bathroom and pinched her to get her to stop crying.’” [People, [1/14/22](#)]

Hernandez’s Request For A Temporary Restraining Order Was Granted Until A Hearing That Was Scheduled On October 20, 2021. “The application of Petitioner, Juan Gabriel Hernandez, for temporary restraining order was presented to the Court today. Respondent is Monica De La Cruz. The Court examined the pleadings and affidavit of Petitioner and finds that Petitioner is entitled to a temporary restraining order. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the clerk of this Court issue a temporary restraining order restraining Respondent, and Respondent is immediately restrained [...] This restraining order is effective immediately and shall continue in force and effect until further order of this Court or until it expires by operation of law. [...] IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk shall issue notice to Respondent, Monica De La Cruz, to appear, and Respondent is ORDERED to appear in person, before this Court in the courthouse at 100 North Closner, Edinburg, Texas, on October 20, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Temporary Restraining Order and Order Setting Hearing for Temporary Orders, [10/5/21](#)]

De La Cruz Allegedly Pinched Her Stepdaughter To Get Her To Stop Crying At Church

De La Cruz Allegedly “Pinched” Her Stepdaughter To Get Her To Stop Crying While At Church. “Petitioner would show that on or about last Sunday while at Church coffee got spilled at which point Petitioner’s daughter began crying. Rather than try to console her, Respondent took her to the bathroom and pinched her to get her to stop crying.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, First Amended Petition, [10/7/21](#)]

- **HEADLINE: People: “Allegations Of A Child Pinched, A Dog Custody Dispute, Mean Texts: Inside A Texas Candidate’s Bitter Divorce.”** [People, [1/14/22](#)]

Hernandez’s Ex-Wife Alleged That De La Cruz Threatened To Bring Up Her Stepdaughter’s Medical History In Order To Defend Herself In The Divorce

Hernandez’s Ex-Wife Alleged “This Is Not The First Time You Have Done This To Ella” And That She Stood Behind Hernandez’s Claims In A Message To De La Cruz. [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 16, [1/6/22](#)]

Hernandez’s Ex-Wife Alleged De La Cruz Threatened To Bring Up Her Stepdaughter’s “Medical History” In Order To Defend Herself In The Divorce. [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 16, [1/6/22](#)]

Hernandez Claimed De La Cruz Refused To Go To “Parenting Classes” And “Didn’t Want To Make Things Better For My Daughter”

Hernandez Said De La Cruz “Didn’t Want To Go To Parenting Classes” And “Didn’t Want To Make Things Better For My Daughter.” “Unfortunately, it got to that point where I had to make a decision for the best sake of my daughter,” Hernandez said in an interview Tuesday. ‘She didn’t want to go to parenting classes, and she didn’t want to make things better for my daughter.’” [Washington Post, [11/9/21](#)]

Hernandez Said In An Email He Would “Consider Taking Out The Language” And That “Your Image Can Be Salvaged” If De La Cruz Reconciled And Took Parenting Classes. [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 26, [1/6/22](#)]

Shortly Before The Divorce Filing, De La Cruz Allegedly Refused To Let Her Stepdaughter Live In Her Home And Repeatedly Wrote “F--- ELLA” About Her Stepdaughter In Texts To Hernandez

August 2021: De La Cruz Allegedly Stated Multiple Times That She Did Not Want Her Stepdaughter To Live In Her Home And That She Would End Her Marriage If Hernandez Brought Her Home

Text Messages Introduced In The Court Record Showed De La Cruz Attacking Hernandez’s Daughter And Threatening To End The Marriage If He Brought His Daughter Home. “She also defended her own conduct in the face of text messages, introduced into the court record, in which she attacked Hernandez’s daughter by name during a fight with him. [...] The text messages showed that De La Cruz threatened to end the marriage in August if Hernandez brought his daughter home, and directed a four-letter expletive at Hernandez, his ex-wife and their daughter. She later repeated the vulgar message twice, referring to his daughter by name. The Washington Post is not disclosing her name because she is a minor. ‘Not very congressional,’ her husband responded in the text message thread. ‘You don’t mean that about me and my daughter.’ ‘I mean every word,’ De La Cruz shot back.” [Washington Post, [1/12/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said, “No Absolutely Not I Do Not Want Her Here” In Response To Hernandez Saying That His Daughter Would Stay In The Home Until December. [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Responded “No” To Hernandez Saying His Daughter Wanted To Come Home. Hernandez: “Ella wants to come home.” De La Cruz: “No.” Hernandez: “I’ve talked to her about respecting you.” De La Cruz: “Lol... seven years later..... lol.” Hernandez: “Be reasonably.” Hernandez: “She needs our help.” De La Cruz: “I thought you had already talked to her about respecting me... or was that a lie too???” Hernandez: “I’m not lying. She understands that we need to get along.” De La Cruz: “Keep *talking* to her..... how’s that working for you????” Hernandez: “I’m not giving up.” De La Cruz: “The answer is NO.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Alleged Hernandez Was “Being Selfish” For “Bringing Her Down Here To A Home That Is Unstable And On The Verge Of Cracking.” Hernandez: “Its different now. I’m getting her help and she wants to try.” De La Cruz: “NO.” De La Cruz: “You are being selfish by taking her away from her support family, ripping her out of school and away from her mother and bringing her down here to a home that is unstable and on the verge of cracking. This home and marriage is fragile and you want to-” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said, “If You Show Up Here With Ella Consider Our Marriage Over” In Response To Hernandez Saying His Daughter Wanted To Come Home. Hernandez: “She wants to be in our home. She asked to come home and as a father I will do whats right. If you say its for her mental health then you will accept her with open arms.” De La Cruz: “Our marriage is fragile and cannot handle this. Do not do this....” De La Cruz: “Please don’t do this.... We will not survive this.” Hernandez: “Through God all things are possible.” De La Cruz: “If you show up here with Ella. Consider our marriage over.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said “Then You Have Put The Nail In The Coffin Of Our Marriage” In Response To Hernandez Saying He Was Coming Home With His Daughter. Hernandez: “Do you hear yourself. How do you think you will look in the public eye?” De La Cruz: “Stay in LC where both of you have a foundation and support. Stay there.” Hernandez: “I’m coming home.” De La Cruz: “The you have put the nail in the coffin of our marriage.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

Hernandez Claimed That De La Cruz Would “Not Live In The Family Home” And Would Divorce Him If He Brought His Daughter Back Home. “My daughter requires the stability of residing at the family home. My wife has expressed that she will not live in the family home and stated she would divorce me if brought my child

back to the home in August of 2021.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Sworn Declaration, [10/5/21](#)]

De La Cruz Said She Did Not Want Hernandez’s Daughter At Her Home And That If Hernandez Brought Her There, Their Marriage Would Be Over. Hernandez: “I will stay in my home.” Hernandez: The deal is that ella will stay with us at least till December. If her mom stops drinking and she doesn’t go to jail then ella will go back to her moms.” De La Cruz: “No Absolutely not I do not want her here.” De La Cruz: “The right thing to do is stay in LC with Ella. Put Ella first and save our marriage this way. If you bring Ella, our marriage is over.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

August 2021: De La Cruz Said That She Meant “Every Word” When She Repeatedly Said, “F--- ELLA,” Referring To Her Stepdaughter, In Texts To Juan Hernandez

Washington Post: De La Cruz “Directed A Four-Letter Expletive At Hernandez, His Ex-Wife And Their Daughter. She Later Repeated The Vulgar Message Twice, Referring To His Daughter By Name.” “She also defended her own conduct in the face of text messages, introduced into the court record, in which she attacked Hernandez’s daughter by name during a fight with him. [...] The text messages showed that De La Cruz threatened to end the marriage in August if Hernandez brought his daughter home, and directed a four-letter expletive at Hernandez, his ex-wife and their daughter. She later repeated the vulgar message twice, referring to his daughter by name. The Washington Post is not disclosing her name because she is a minor. ‘Not very congressional,’ her husband responded in the text message thread. ‘You don’t mean that about me and my daughter.’ ‘I mean every word,’ De La Cruz shot back.” [Washington Post, [1/12/22](#)]

De La Cruz Repeatedly Said, “FUCK ELLA” And “Go To Hell All Of You” Referring To Her Stepdaughter In Texts To Hernandez. De La Cruz: “Go to hell.” De La Cruz: “All of you.” Hernandez: “I know you don’t mean it.” De La Cruz: “Let me make this clear.” Hernandez: “You Love me.” De La Cruz: “FUCK YOU.” De La Cruz: “FUCK ELLA.” Hernandez: “Call me.” De La Cruz: “FUCK ELLA.” De La Cruz: “GO TO HELL.” De La Cruz: “FUCK MARLIES.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said She Meant “Every Word” About What She Said About Her Step-Daughter. Hernandez: “Not very congressional.” Hernandez: You don’t mean that about me and my daughter.” De La Cruz: “I mean every word.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said She Didn’t “Give A Fuck Anymore” In Response To Hernandez Saying He Needed Her Support With His Daughter. Hernandez: “I need your support with what to do about my daughter.” De La Cruz: “I don’t give a fuck anymore. You fucked up.” De La Cruz: “Do whatever you want.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said “Fuck All Three Of You” And “Good Fucking Luck With Her And Your New Life With Your Daughter” In Response To Hernandez Saying He Wanted To Go Home With His Daughter. Hernandez: “I am coming home tomorrow.” Hernandez: “I love you and only you!!! I fucked up but not to make you mad. I am on a bad place because you are mad at me and I feel like I need to do something for ella. I can’t bring her home if you don’t even want me home. I really need you.” De La Cruz: “Fuck all three of you. Consider your new home with Marlies and her Dad. Good fucking luck with her and your new life with your daughter.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Accused Hernandez Of Having An Affair With His Ex-Wife And Sent The Ex-Wife Threatening Text Messages
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Hernandez Said He “Fucked Up” After De La Cruz Accused Him Of Having An Affair With His Ex-Wife.

Hernandez: I am coming home tomorrow.” Hernandez: “I love you and only you!!! I fucked up but not to make you mad. I am on a bad place because you are mad at me and I feel like I need to do something for ella. I can’t bring her home if you don’t even want me home. I really need you.” De La Cruz: “Fuck all three of you. Consider your new home with Marlies and her dad. Good fucking luck with her and your new life with your daughter.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Claimed Hernandez Screwed Up Their Marriage “For That Bitch” And Was Using Her

Stepdaughter As An Excuse. Hernandez: “She is a fuck up.” De La Cruz: “I am so fucking passed that you would screw up our marriage for that bitch.” De La Cruz: “You fucked uo6.” De La Cruz: “Uo” Hernandez: “I really considering taking ella.” De La Cruz: “Up.” De La Cruz: “Whatever.” De La Cruz: Go ahead and use Ella as an excuse. At the end of the day, you build more resentment and fuck up our marriage. Congratulations.” Hernandez: “I am not fucking up our marriage.” Hernandez: “I am not hiding anything.” De La Cruz: “Yes you are and you are stupid to think you are not.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/7/22](#)]

De La Cruz Told Hernandez’s Ex-Wife That That If He Calls Her To Pick Up His “DRUNK ASS,” It Will Be “The LAST Time He Ever Does Anything For You.”

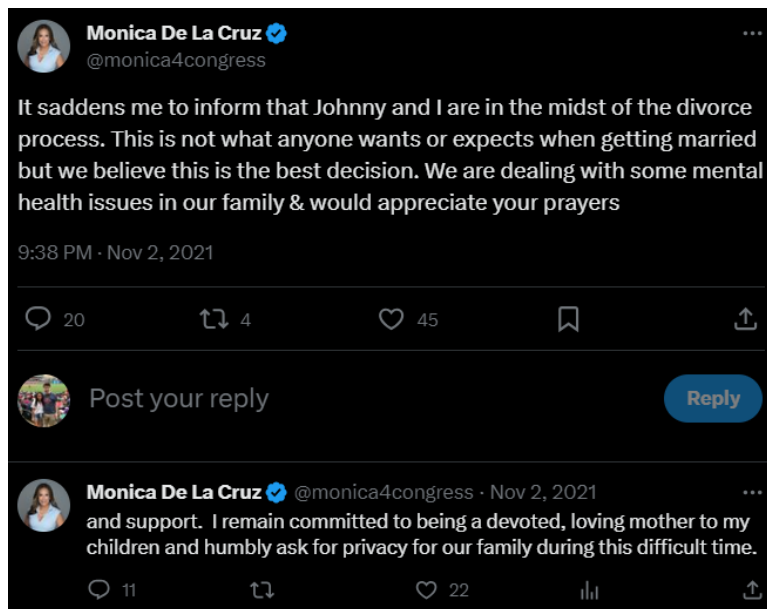
In a text to Hernandez, De La Cruz said “This is what I text your lover ex wife.” De La Cruz sent a screenshot, which might not include everything in the message, in which she said, “a loser Mom who is fucking up her kid DO NOT EVER CALL MY HUSBAND AGAIN TO PICK UP YOUR DRUNK ASS That will be the LAST time he ever does anything for you.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/7/22](#)]

De La Cruz Told Hernandez’s Ex-Wife That She Was “A Loser Mom Who Is Fucking Up Her Kid.” In a text to Hernandez, De La Cruz said “This is what I text your lover ex wife.” De La Cruz sent a screenshot, which might not include everything in the message, in which she said, “a loser Mom who is fucking up her kid DO NOT EVER CALL MY HUSBAND AGAIN TO PICK UP YOUR DRUNK ASS That will be the LAST time he ever does anything for you.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/7/22](#)]

De La Cruz Sent Another Text Message To Hernandez’s Ex-Wife Calling Her “A Drunk Like Your Mother And Father” Who “Single Handedly Fucked Up Your Kid.” De La Cruz texted Hernandez’s ex-wife: “You are a drunk like y our mother and father. You have single handedly fucked up your kid.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/7/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said That Mental Health Issues Played A Role In Her Divorce And Alluded To Those Issues Causing The Abuse Allegations

When De La Cruz Announced Her Divorce, She Alluded To “Mental Health Issues” In Her Family And Said She Remained Committed To Being A Loving And Devoted Mother. DE LA CRUZ: “It saddens me to inform that Johnny and I are in the midst of the divorce process. This is not what anyone wants or expects when getting married but we believe this is the best decision. We are dealing with some mental health issues in our family & would appreciate your prayers and support. I remain committed to being a devoted, loving mother to my children and humbly ask for privacy for our family during this difficult time.” [Monica De La Cruz, Twitter, [11/2/21](#)]



[Monica De La Cruz, Twitter, [11/2/21](#)]

- **De La Cruz’s Ex-Husband Said That She Was Putting Her Campaign Ahead Of Her Family, Using His Daughter “For Sympathy Votes” And That She Needs To Take Her Post Down.** “Hernandez told the Post that he thinks De La Cruz is putting her campaign ahead of their family and that she's using his daughter ‘for sympathy votes.’ ‘My daughter is going through mental health issues and she should not be using that on her campaign page. She needs to take that down,’ he said.” [Newsweek, [11/9/21](#)]

When De La Cruz Was Asked About Allegations Of Abuse, She Said That “Mental Health Needs To Be Taken Very Seriously.” “Democrats say that De La Cruz’s greatest weakness stems from a still-ongoing divorce with her husband, Juan Gabriel Hernandez. According to Hidalgo County court records, Hernandez accused De La Cruz of being ‘verbally abusive’ to her stepdaughter, pinching her, and contributing to his daughter’s anxiety. Democrats plan to have those allegations front and center; a spokesperson from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee called De La Cruz ‘an extreme, deeply flawed candidate.’ in a statement. ‘The first thing that I would say is that mental health needs to be taken very seriously,’ De La Cruz said when asked about the allegations.” [National Journal, [5/23/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said That The Abuse Allegations Against Her Were False

De La Cruz Denied The Accusations And Claimed They Were False. “De La Cruz said in a statement to The Washington Post that the accusations are ‘false, and I’m heartbroken that as we work through some mental health issues that involve a minor this deeply personal matter is now being exposed in the national press. My number one concern will always be the well-being of all of my children, and I would appreciate your prayers and continue to ask for privacy for our family.’” [Washington Post, [11/9/21](#)]

- **De La Cruz Denied The Allegations Against Her And Said That Her Top Concern Was The Wellbeing Of Her Children.** “De La Cruz responded to the allegations and insisted they're not true. ‘These accusations are false and I'm heartbroken that as we work through some mental health issues that involve a minor, this deeply personal matter is now being exposed in the national press. My number one concern will always be the wellbeing of all of my children, and I would appreciate your prayers and continue to ask for privacy for our family,’ she said in a statement to Newsweek.” [Newsweek, [11/9/21](#)]

De La Cruz Said That There Was “No Validity” To The Abuse Allegations. “Democrats say that De La Cruz’s greatest weakness stems from a still-ongoing divorce with her husband, Juan Gabriel Hernandez. According to Hidalgo County court records, Hernandez accused De La Cruz of being ‘verbally abusive’ to her stepdaughter, pinching her, and contributing to his daughter’s anxiety. [...] ‘The first thing that I would say is that mental health

needs to be taken very seriously,’ De La Cruz said when asked about the allegations. ‘And No. 2, that, of course, I—there is no validity in his comments and the accusations that he has made.’” [National Journal, [5/23/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said, “You Know Deep Inside That There Was No Physical Or Mental Abuse” In A Text To Hernandez. [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 3, [1/5/22](#)]

De La Cruz Claimed Hernandez Was “Manipulating” His Daughter “To Say And Do What He Needs To Get What He Wants From This Divorce” And Was “Using Her To Get More Money From Me.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 16, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said, “Once You Formally Alleged Abuse...We No Longer Have Anything To Discuss” In A Text To Hernandez. [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 20, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Said, “I Have Been RIGHT When It Comes To Ella A 100% Of The Time.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Respondent’s Exhibit 25, [1/6/22](#)]

De La Cruz Filed A Court Motion To Stop Her Husband From Talking To The Press Or On Social Media

De La Cruz Filed An Emergency Motion Requesting The Court To Stop Juan Hernandez From Making Any Statements To The Press And On Social Media. “Respondent is self employed as an insurance agent whose impeccable reputation is crucial to maintaining her livelihood through the word of mouth of established clients and the general public. Petitioner Juan Gabriel Hernandez has recently made and is currently making statements and comments to the press and on social media that denigrate, harm or otherwise deteriorate the reputation of Respondent Monica De La Cruz in such a way that has caused consternation and confusion in established and prospective clients that affects Respondent’s business to suffer and thus affecting her ability to continue making mortgage payments and not devaluing the worth of the community estate. Respondent respectfully requests this Honorable Court issue an order enjoining the parties from making any statements or comments regarding this pending litigation to, but not limited to, the press and on social media.” [Hidalgo County 93rd District Court, Case No. F-4415-21-B, Civil Case Records, Original Petition for Divorce, Emergency Motion for Preservation of the Community Estate, [11/12/21](#)]