

Thomas Smith (MI-08) Research Report

Significant Findings

Smith Supported The Iran War Which Raised Michiganders' Costs While Spending Billions Of Taxpayer Dollars Overseas

- ✓ Smith supported the Iran War, which raised gas and fertilizer costs while spending billions overseas and costing over a dozen Americans their lives.
- ✓ July 2026: Smith said he supported the Iran War.
- ✓ The war with Iran caused gas, grocery, and fertilizer costs to skyrocket in Michigan while spending at least \$37.5 billion of taxpayer dollars overseas.
- ✓ As of July 20, 2026, 18 US Servicemembers had lost their lives fighting in the war with Iran.

Smith Claimed His Business Donated 10% Of Their Earnings To "Veterans Charities," One Of Which Was A Crisis Pregnancy Center That Smith Said "Make[s] Sure The Baby's Born And Not Aborted"

- ✓ Smith was the Chief Operating Officer and Organizing Member of Jar Head Salsa.
- ✓ Smith said that Jar Head Salsa donated 10% of their profits to charities that he claimed supported veterans, which included a crisis pregnancy center, and said the donations to the crisis pregnancy center were to "make sure the baby's born and not aborted."
- ✓ So-called "crisis pregnancy centers" were run by anti-abortion activists that engaged in manipulative practices that spread misinformation on sexual health and abortion and have been known to delay access to medically legitimate prenatal and abortion care.

Smith Contributed To The Campaigns Of Far-Right Politicians Who Were Anti-Abortion Extremists, Denied The 2020 Election, And Trafficked In Conspiracy Theories

- ✓ Smith contributed to Kristina Karamo, a fervent 2020 election denier and conspiracy theorist who called abortion "far more wicked than slavery."
- ✓ Smith contributed to Garrett Soldano, an election denier and anti-abortion extremist who aimed to institute a six-week abortion ban in Michigan and repeatedly said that rape victims should carry their pregnancies to term.

Smith Donated To The Presidential Campaign Of Ben Carson Who Called To Repeal The Affordable Care Act That Provided Coverage To More Than 30,000 MI-08 Residents, Supported Cuts To Social Security And Medicare, And Compared Abortion To Slavery

- ✓ 2015: Smith made five contributions to Ben Carson's Presidential campaign, totaling \$250.
- ✓ Carson called the Affordable Care Act the worst thing that happened to the United States since slavery and called for its repeal which would threaten health care access for more than 30,000 Mid-Michiganders in the district.
- ✓ Carson called Social Security "basically [...] a Ponzi scheme" and suggested "gradually start[ing] to raise the [retirement] age," and said he wanted to eliminate Medicaid and Medicare.

- ✓ 2015: Carson said no Muslim should ever become President of the United States.
- ✓ Carson was opposed to abortions, even in cases of rape or incest, and compared it to slavery.
- ✓ Carson signed an anti-same-sex marriage pledge, compared homosexual relationships to pedophilia and bestiality, and asked people consider why “a lot of people who go into prison straight and when they come out, they’re gay.”

Smith Showed Support For Multiple Far-Right Extremists Who Opposed Abortion, Embraced Antisemitic Rhetoric, And Defended Republican’s Tariffs That Raised Costs On Michiganders

- ✓ Smith praised Clarence Thomas, who wanted to overturn Roe v. Wade for 30 years and tried to protect Republican’s tariffs which made life more expensive for Michiganders and cost the state’s businesses billions.
- ✓ Smith praised Candace Owens, who embraced antisemitic rhetoric.
- ✓ Smith praised David Clarke, who frequently pushed extreme views including anti-abortion rhetoric and comparing Obama to Hitler.

Smith Supported The Iran War Which Raised Michiganders’ Costs While Spending Billions Of Taxpayer Dollars Overseas

Smith Supported The Iran War, Which Raised Gas, Grocery, And Fertilizer Costs While Spending Billions Overseas And Costing Over A Dozen Americans Their Lives

July 2026: Smith Said He Supported The Iran War

July 2026: Smith Defended Trump’s Ability To Wage War In Iran. QUESTION: “The US Senate voted June 23 to adopt a resolution directing the president to either end the war in Iran or get congressional approval in order to continue it. The concurrent resolution previously passed in the US House. Do you believe the resolution is legally binding, and should President Trump heed the resolution and remove military forces from Iran?” SMITH: “I believe that President Trump had the best intelligence available to know Iran was close to a nuclear weapon and their past actions showed they would use it. Article II of the Constitution gives The Commander in Chief war powers. If Congress disagrees they can defund a war, but there is only one Commander in Chief.” [Midland Daily News, [7/5/26](#)]

The War With Iran Caused Gas, Grocery, And Fertilizer Prices To Skyrocket In Michigan While Costing Taxpayers At Least \$37.5 Billion

July 2026: The Iran War Had Cost The US At Least \$37.5 Billion

July 21, 2026: Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth Said The Iran War “Has Cost \$37.5 Billion So Far.” “Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth faced fiery questions and protests Tuesday over the U.S. war with Iran, which he estimated has cost \$37.5 billion so far, as Republicans prepare a \$95 billion package to fund the military, along with other White House priorities.” [Associated Press, [7/21/26](#)]

Michigan Families Were Paying More For Gas And Groceries Because Of The Iran War

HEADLINE: “Iran War Has Already Cost Households In Michigan \$502 In Higher Gas Prices.” [Michigan Independent, [7/15/26](#)]

- **HEADLINE: “Michigan Gas Prices Surpass \$4 Mark As US-Iran Conflict Intensifies.”** [FOX 2, [7/20/26](#)]

Michigan Independent: Michigan Households Paid Higher Costs For Groceries Fueled By The War In Iran. “The average household in Michigan has already paid an extra \$502 on gasoline since President Donald Trump began U.S. military attacks against Iran on Feb. 28, according to a new analysis by the minority staff of Congress’ Joint Economic Committee. Nationally, gasoline prices are about 30% higher than before the war began. [...] A June report by the Joint Economic Committee minority staff found that the average Michigan household had had to spend \$3,100 more for goods and services under Trump as of May 2026, due to higher healthcare, grocery, energy, and housing costs fueled by the war, Trump’s tariffs on imported goods, and cuts to federal health insurance programs.” [Michigan Independent, [7/15/26](#)]

- **Associated Press HEADLINE: “Higher Prices For Gas, Groceries And Flights Will Likely Outlast The Iran War.”** [Associated Press, [6/16/26](#)]

The Iran War Caused Fertilizer Prices To Double For Michigan Farmers

Fortune: Fertilizer Costs Had Doubled Because Of The Iran War. “A survey published Tuesday of 5,700 farmers conducted by the American Farm Bureau Federation shows that around 70% of farmers are unable to afford all the fertilizer they need, while nearly six in 10 said their finances have worsened owing to the rising cost of both fertilizer and fuel. The new data comes as the Iran war has strangled the global supply chain as Iran exerts its control over the Strait of Hormuz, through which one-third of global fertilizer shipments flowed before the war. While more than 20 commercial ships passed through the strait over the past several days—an improvement from earlier this month when Iran essentially shut down the strait—it’s unclear whether the flow of ships will improve as the war drags on well nearing its seventh week, despite a ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran signed last week, and a potential extension on the way.” [Fortune, [4/16/26](#)]

18 US Servicemembers Had Lost Their Lives Fighting In The War With Iran

TIME Magazine: As Of July 20, 2026, 18 US Servicemembers Had Lost Their Lives Fighting In The War With Iran. “Eighteen American service members have died in the war in Iran in the months since the U.S. and Israel launched the initial military strikes on Feb. 28.” [TIME Magazine, [7/20/26](#)]

Smith Claimed His Business Donated 10% Of Their Earnings To “Veterans Charities,” One Of Which Was A Crisis Pregnancy Center That Smith Said “Make[s] Sure The Baby’s Born And Not Aborted”

Smith Was The Chief Operating Officer And Organizing Member Of Jar Head Salsa

Tom Smith Was The Chief Operating Officer Of Jar Head Salsa. “Only five people know the top-secret recipe to Michigan-made Jar Head Salsa. ‘It’s kept in Grand Blanc, Michigan, and guarded by a Marine,’ said Tom Smith, 67, the COO of Jar Head. The Marine is David Smith, 48. He’s Tom Smith’s son, business partner and creator of the salsa recipe. He came up with it about 20 years ago when he was cooking for some 3,000 U.S. Marines a day at Camp Pendleton in Southern California.” [Detroit Free Press, [12/9/18](#)]

2008: Thomas Smith Was Listed As The Organizing Member For Jar Head Salsa In Their Articles Of Organization. [Michigan Business Registry, [7/28/08](#)]

Smith Said That Jar Head Salsa Donated 10% Of Their Profits To Charities That He Claimed Supported Veterans, Which Included A Crisis Pregnancy Center

Smith Said, And It Was Reported On By The Detroit Free Press, That Jar Head Salsa Gave 10% Of Their Profits To Charities That Supported Veterans And Their Families

Smith Said Jar Head Salsa Donated 10% Of Their Profits To Charities That Support Veterans And Their Families. “A Davison-based salsa company marks a milestone and they're helping veterans along the way. ‘Jar Head Salsa’ celebrates 10 years in business next month. The company's name is a nod to the creator of the recipe who is a Marine. His father, the chief operating officer, says they donate 10 percent of their profits to charities that support veterans and their families... Tom Smith, COO of Jar Head Salsa said, ‘there's the concern that no veteran is ever left behind. They will go through whatever they have to do to make sure they keep that promise. So, there's that feeling of brother ship amongst the veterans, and that's important to us. It's the best time of the month.’” [Mid Michigan Now, [4/23/19](#)]

Detroit Free Press: Jar Head Salsa Gave 10% Of Their Net Revenues To Charities That Support Veterans. “Those coolers turned into a company in 2009. Today, Jar Head Salsa, made in Davison, Michigan, is sold at 10 local farmers markets, three stores and Detroit's Eastern Market. It's on track to do \$400,000 in sales this year, but the Smiths aren't in it only for the money. They give 10 percent of the net revenues to charities that support veterans.” [Detroit Free Press, [12/9/18](#)]

In An Interview, Smith Said That One Of The Charities Jar Head Salsa Donated To Was A Crisis Pregnancy Center That He Claimed Helped The Families Of Veterans

Smith Said One Of The Charities That Jar Head Salsa Donated To Was The IMPACT Pregnancy Center In Flint, Michigan, Which He Claimed Served The Families Of Veterans

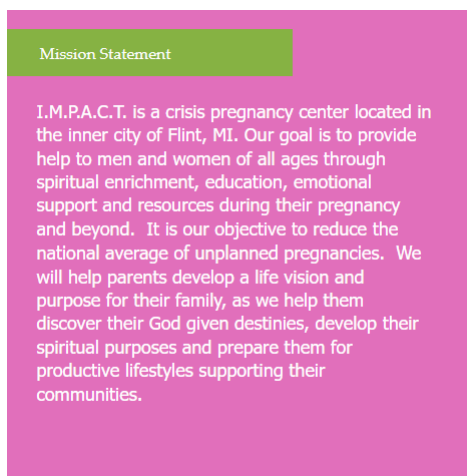
Video: Smith Said One Of The Charities That Jar Head Salsa Donated Some Of Their Proceeds To Was The IMPACT Pregnancy Center In Flint, MI. “Okay, we've got three veterans charities, and the first one is the national one, it's the Gary Sinise Foundation, and the way we do our charity is we pay all our bills at the end of the month, and whatever's left, we take 10% right off the top before anybody gets paid anything and give that to the veterans, and we started out with that process, you know, that's right out of the Bible to give back 10% and that's what we do. And so we started out with writing a check for \$4 and now when we give it to our different charities, it's got a couple zeros behind it, and then our second charity is that Odd Fellows Scholarship Fund for sons and daughters of veterans, and that's the one that's located in Davidson. And our last charity is the Impact Pregnancy Center in Flint, Michigan, because we have so many kids conceived out of wedlock in Flint that if a family with a problem pregnancy can prove to have a veteran in the family, we make sure the baby's born and not aborted, and we support it for its first three years, and that one has a special place in our heart.” [Veterans Radio, 23:26, [1/8/19](#)] (VIDEO)

Video: Smith Said The IMPACT Pregnancy Center Served The Families Of Veterans. “Okay, we've got three veterans charities, and the first one is the national one, it's the Gary Sinise Foundation, and the way we do our charity is we pay all our bills at the end of the month, and whatever's left, we take 10% right off the top before anybody gets paid anything and give that to the veterans, and we started out with that process, you know, that's right out of the Bible to give back 10% and that's what we do. And so we started out with writing a check for \$4 and now when we give it to our different charities, it's got a couple zeros behind it, and then our second charity is that Odd Fellows Scholarship Fund for sons and daughters of veterans, and that's the one that's located in Davidson. And our last charity is the Impact Pregnancy Center in Flint, Michigan, because we have so many kids conceived out of wedlock in Flint that if a family with a problem pregnancy can prove to have a veteran in the family, we make sure the baby's born and not aborted, and we support it for its first three years, and that one has a special place in our heart.” [Veterans Radio, 23:26, [1/8/19](#)] (VIDEO)

- **Smith: “If A Family With A Problem Pregnancy Can Prove To Have A Veteran In The Family, We Make Sure The Baby’s Born And Not Aborted.”** “Okay, we’ve got three veterans charities, and the first one is the national one, it’s the Gary Sinise Foundation, and the way we do our charity is we pay all our bills at the end of the month, and whatever’s left, we take 10% right off the top before anybody gets paid anything and give that to the veterans, and we started out with that process, you know, that’s right out of the Bible to give back 10% and that’s what we do. And so we started out with writing a check for \$4 and now when we give it to our different charities, it’s got a couple zeros behind it, and then our second charity is that Odd Fellows Scholarship Fund for sons and daughters of veterans, and that’s the one that’s located in Davidson. And our last charity is the Impact Pregnancy Center in Flint, Michigan, because we have so many kids conceived out of wedlock in Flint that if a family with a problem pregnancy can prove to have a veteran in the family, we make sure the baby’s born and not aborted, and we support it for its first three years, and that one has a special place in our heart.” [Veterans Radio, 23:26, [1/8/19](#)] (VIDEO)

The IMPACT Pregnancy Center Was A Crisis Pregnancy Center

IMPACT Pregnancy Center Was A Crisis Pregnancy Center. “I.M.P.A.C.T. is a crisis pregnancy center located in the inner city of Flint, MI. Our goal is to provide help to men and women of all ages through spiritual enrichment, education, emotional support and resources during their pregnancy and beyond. It is our objective to reduce the national average of unplanned pregnancies. We will help parents develop a life vision and purpose for their family, as we help them discover their God given destinies, develop their spiritual purposes and prepare them for productive lifestyles supporting their communities.” [IMPACT Pregnancy Resource Center, accessed [5/26/26](#)]



[IMPACT Pregnancy Resource Center, accessed [5/26/26](#)]

Smith Said The Donations To The Crisis Pregnancy Center Were To “Make Sure The Baby’s Born And Not Aborted” And Said The Organization Had A “Special Place In Our Heart”

Video: Smith: “We Make Sure The Baby’s Born And Not Aborted.” “Okay, we’ve got three veterans charities, and the first one is the national one, it’s the Gary Sinise Foundation, and the way we do our charity is we pay all our bills at the end of the month, and whatever’s left, we take 10% right off the top before anybody gets paid anything and give that to the veterans, and we started out with that process, you know, that’s right out of the Bible to give back 10% and that’s what we do. And so we started out with writing a check for \$4 and now when we give it to our different charities, it’s got a couple zeros behind it, and then our second charity is that Odd Fellows Scholarship Fund for sons and daughters of veterans, and that’s the one that’s located in Davidson. And our last charity is the Impact Pregnancy Center in Flint, Michigan, because we have so many kids conceived out of wedlock in Flint that if a family with a problem pregnancy can prove to have a veteran in the family. We make sure the baby’s born and not aborted, and we support it for its first three years, and that one has a special place in our heart.” [Veterans Radio, 23:26, [1/8/19](#)] (VIDEO)

Video: Smith Said The IMPACT Pregnancy Center Had A “Special Place In Our Heart.” “Okay, we've got three veterans charities, and the first one is the national one, it's the Gary Sinise Foundation, and the way we do our charity is we pay all our bills at the end of the month, and whatever's left, we take 10% right off the top before anybody gets paid anything and give that to the veterans, and we started out with that process, you know, that's right out of the Bible to give back 10% and that's what we do. And so we started out with writing a check for \$4 and now when we give it to our different charities, it's got a couple zeros behind it, and then our second charity is that Odd Fellows Scholarship Fund for sons and daughters of veterans, and that's the one that's located in Davidson. And our last charity is the Impact Pregnancy Center in Flint, Michigan, because we have so many kids conceived out of wedlock in Flint that if a family with a problem pregnancy can prove to have a veteran in the family. We make sure the baby's born and not aborted, and we support it for its first three years, and that one has a special place in our heart.” [Veterans Radio, 23:26, [1/8/19](#)] (VIDEO)

The Impact Pregnancy Center Repeatedly Posted Extreme Anti-Abortion Rhetoric And Promoted An Anti-Abortion Movie

The Impact Pregnancy Center Repeatedly Posted Extreme Anti-Abortion Rhetoric On Their Facebook

The Impact Pregnancy Center: “Abortion...A Horrible Painful Death.” “Abortion...a horrible painful death.” [Facebook, Impact Pregnancy Center, [11/5/20](#)]

The Impact Pregnancy Center Posted A Quote That Read “The Answer To A Crisis Pregnancy Is To Eliminate The Crisis, Not The Child.” [Facebook, Impact Pregnancy Center, [6/14/22](#)]



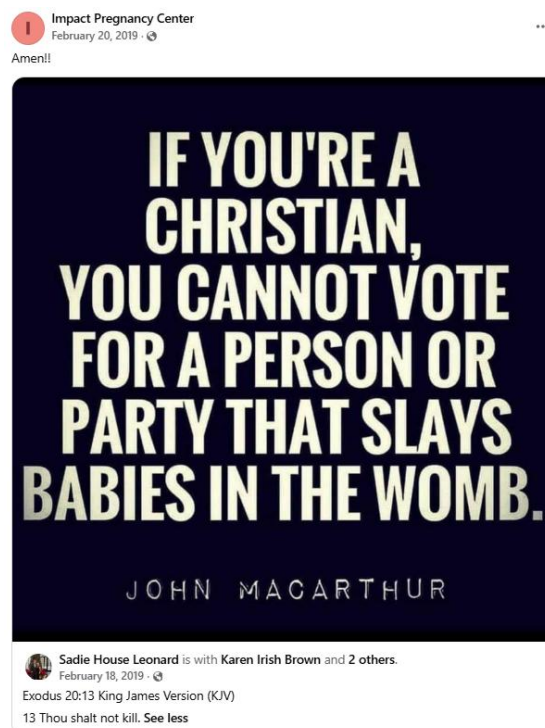
[Facebook, Impact Pregnancy Center, [6/14/22](#)]

Impact Pregnancy Center Reposted A Picture Of A Newborn With The Caption “Another Baby That Was Saved From Abortion Was Born!” “Another baby that was saved from abortion was born! What a beautiful boy! Praise God!!” [Facebook, Impact Pregnancy Center, [2/10/19](#)]



[Facebook, Impact Pregnancy Center, Impact Pregnancy Center, [2/10/19](#)]

Impact Pregnancy Center Commented “Amen!!” On A Post That Said You Couldn’t Vote For A Person That “Slays Babies In The Womb” If You Were A Christian. [Facebook, [2/20/19](#)]



[Facebook, Impact Pregnancy Center, [2/20/19](#)]

Impact Pregnancy Promoted The An Anti-Abortion Movie, “Unplanned,” Which Planned Parenthood Said Made False Claims, Distortions, And Incorrect Depictions About Health Care.

Impact Pregnancy Promoted The Movie “Unplanned.” [Facebook, Impact Pregnancy Center, [3/6/19](#)]



[Facebook, Impact Pregnancy Center, [3/6/19](#)]

- Planned Parenthood Said The Claims In The Anti-Abortion Movie, “Unplanned” Were False, And It Promoted Distortions And Incorrect Depictions About Health Care.** “If you haven’t seen a commercial for Unplanned, an anti-abortion movie critical of Planned Parenthood, it isn’t for lack of trying on the part of marketers, whose efforts have been consistently rebuffed by TV networks. [...] Planned Parenthood issued the following statement about Unplanned, ‘The claims in this film are simply false. Planned Parenthood is proud to provide expert, high-quality health care to our patients, including safe and legal abortion, in a safe and compassionate environment. The movie promotes many falsehoods including most importantly, distortions and incorrect depictions about healthcare.’” [The Hollywood Reporter, [3/29/19](#)]

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Were Run By Anti-Abortion Activists That Engaged In Manipulative Practices That Spread Misinformation On Sexual Health And Abortion And Have Been Known To Delay Access To Medically Legitimate Prenatal And Abortion Care

Planned Parenthood: Crisis Pregnancy Centers Were Run By Anti-Abortion Activists Who Try To Scare People From Getting An Abortion. “Crisis pregnancy centers (also called CPCs or “fake clinics”) are clinics or mobile vans that look like real health centers, but they’re run by anti-abortion activists who have a shady, harmful agenda: to scare, shame, or pressure you out of getting an abortion, and to tell lies about abortion, birth control, and sexual health. Crisis pregnancy centers don’t provide abortion or offer a full range of health care, and they won’t give you honest facts about sexual health and your pregnancy options — their goal is to spread misinformation and propaganda.” [Planned Parenthood, [11/4/21](#)]

Crisis Pregnancy Centers Engage In Manipulative And Deceptive Practices That Spread Misinformation On Sexual Health And Abortion And CPCs Have Been Show To Delay Access To Medically Legitimate Prenatal And Abortion Care. “Crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) are nonprofit organizations that present themselves as healthcare clinics while providing counseling explicitly intended to discourage and limit access to abortion. These facilities engage in purposefully manipulative and deceptive practices that spread misinformation on sexual health and abortion. CPCs have also been shown to delay access to medically legitimate prenatal and abortion care, which negatively impacts maternal health.” [National Library of Medicine, [6/8/22](#)]

Smith Contributed To The Campaigns Of Far-Right Politicians Who Were Anti-Abortion Extremists, Denied The 2020 Election, And Trafficked In Conspiracy Theories

Smith Contributed To Kristina Karamo, A Fervent 2020 Election Denier And Conspiracy Theorist Who Called Abortion “Far More Wicked Than Slavery”

Smith Made Two Contributions To Kristina Karamo's Secretary Of State Campaign

2021: Smith Made Two Contributions To Kristina Karamo's Secretary Of State Campaign Totaling \$25.

[Michigan Transparency Network, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

2021: Thomas Smith Political Contributions To Kristina Karamo			
Contributor	Recipient	Date	Amount
Thomas Smith	Kristina Karamo For SOS	12/26/21	\$10.00
Thomas Smith	Kristina Karamo For SOS	9/7/21	\$15.00

[Michigan Transparency Network, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

Karamo Was An Election Denier And Claimed That Sacks Of Votes Were Dropped At A Detroit Voting Location, Which Earned Her A Trump Endorsement

Karamo Claimed She Witnessed Fraud As A Poll Challenger And “Baselessly Claimed Widespread Voter Fraud” During The 2020 Election. “The political newcomer rose to prominence in Michigan politics after she claimed she had witnessed fraud as a poll challenger during the 2020 election and baselessly claimed widespread voter fraud occurred in the state, signing on to an unsuccessful lawsuit. Karamo’s promotion of election denial and other conspiracy theories earned her Trump’s endorsement last fall. If elected to Michigan’s top election post, she would oversee the 2024 presidential election in which Trump is weighing a run.” [CNN, [7/4/22](#)]

2020: Karamo Claimed That Sacks Of Votes Had Been Dropped Off At A Detroit Election Center In The Middle of The Night And The Voting Software Changed Trump Votes To Biden Votes Statewide. “In the weeks after the 2020 election, one particular Michigan woman was trumpeting claims of fraud as loudly as she could. Kristina Karamo, a community-college professor who’d previously accused Democrats of having a ‘satanic agenda,’ went on Fox News again and again to describe how illegal ballots supposedly had been tallied for Joe Biden at the TCF Center in Detroit, where she worked as a poll watcher. She testified before the State Senate that sacks of votes inexplicably had been dropped off there in the middle of Election Night. She suggested that Dominion Voting software had flipped Trump votes to Biden votes statewide.” [The Atlantic, [5/22/22](#)]

CNN: Karamo’s Promotion Of Election Denial And Other Conspiracy Theories Earned Her Trump’s Endorsement. “The political newcomer rose to prominence in Michigan politics after she claimed she had witnessed fraud as a poll challenger during the 2020 election and baselessly claimed widespread voter fraud occurred in the state, signing on to an unsuccessful lawsuit. Karamo’s promotion of election denial and other conspiracy theories earned her Trump’s endorsement last fall. If elected to Michigan’s top election post, she would oversee the 2024 presidential election in which Trump is weighing a run.” [CNN, [7/4/22](#)]

Karamo Called Abortions “Child Sacrifice” And Said They Were Worse Than Slavery And Said The Reason She Got Into Politics Was To Fight Against Abortion

Kristina Karamo Compared Abortions To Child Sacrifice And A Satanic Practice. “Before becoming the Trump-backed Republican nominee for Michigan secretary of state, Kristina Karamo said that abortion is ‘child sacrifice’ and a ‘satanic practice.’ ‘Abortion is really nothing new. The child sacrifice is a very satanic practice, and that’s precisely what abortion is. And we need to see it as such,’ Karamo, a community college professor, said in an October 2020 episode of her podcast ‘It’s Solid Food,’ which CNN’s KFile reviewed.” [CNN, [7/4/22](#)]

Karamo Said Abortion Was “Far More Wicked” Than Slavery. “‘It’s the most wicked thing ever. It’s far more wicked than slavery,’ said Karamo, who has been endorsed by Right to Life of Michigan. ‘And David, the reason why I say it’s far more wicked than slavery — because you and I are evidence that the slaves, many slaves, survived — aborted children don’t survive because that’s the whole premise is to kill them. And so when we enter into a point in society that murdering other people is permissible to make my life better, then that’s human sacrifice.’” [Michigan Advance, [10/8/22](#)]

Karamo Said The Reason She Got Into Politics Was “To Fight Against Abortion.” “But Michigan GOP Secretary of State nominee Kristina Karamo has combined that message with her penchant for conspiracy theories, ties to extremist groups and a belief that Satan is involved in everything from yoga to churches that hang rainbow flags. In a video captured during the Michigan Republican Party convention in August, Karamo placed abortion as the foundational reason for her entry into politics. ‘I’m pro-life from conception to natural death and that’s the reason I got into politics is to fight against abortion,’ said Karamo.” [Michigan Advance, [10/8/22](#)]

Karamo Said The January 6th Insurrection Was A False-Flag Operation Carried Out By Antifa Members

Karamo Said The January 6th Insurrection Was A False-Flag Operation Carried Out By Antifa Members. “After former President Donald Trump encouraged supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, where Congress was scheduled to certify the 2020 election results, Karamo dismissed the insurrection attempt as a false-flag operation — another popular far-right conspiracy. ‘Based on the series of evidence and knowing how these situations work, how these anarchists operate, I believe this is completely Antifa posing as Trump supporters,’ Karamo said. ‘I mean, anybody can buy a MAGA hat and put on a t-shirt and buy a Trump flag.’” [Michigan Advance, [10/8/22](#)]

Karamo Argued That Christianity Belonged At The Core Of American Politics, Called Evolution “One Of The Biggest Frauds Ever Perpetuated On Society,” And Asserted The Existence Of Demons

Karamo Argued That Christianity Belonged At The Core Of American Politics, Called Evolution “One Of The Biggest Frauds Ever Perpetuated On Society,” And Asserted The Existence Of Demons. “In a Thursday speech to a right-wing ‘patriot’ group in nearby Charlotte, Karamo argued that Christianity belonged at the core of American politics, called evolution ‘one of the biggest frauds ever perpetuated on society,’ and asserted the existence of demons. ‘When we start talking about the spiritual reality of the demonic forces, it’s like, ‘Oh, my God, this is crazy, we can’t go there,’ Karamo said. ‘No. It’s like, did you read the Bible? Didn’t Jesus perform exorcisms? ... Scriptures are clear. And so if we’re not operating as though the spirit realities of the world exist, we’re going to fail every time.’” [Washington Post, [2/18/23](#)]

Smith Contributed To Garrett Soldano, An Election Denier And Anti-Abortion Extremist Who Aimed To Institute A Six-Week Abortion Ban In Michigan And Repeatedly Said That Rape Victims Should Carry Their Pregnancies To Term

Smith Made A Contribution To Garrett Soldano For His Gubernatorial Campaign

2021: Smith Gave Garrett Soldano For Michigan \$10.71. [Michigan Transparency Network, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

2021: Thomas Smith Political Contributions To Garrett Soldano			
Contributor	Recipient	Date	Amount
Thomas Smith	Garrett Soldano	12/4/21	\$10.71

[Michigan Transparency Network, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

Soldano Said He Wanted To Implement A 6-Week Abortion Ban In Michigan And Repeatedly Said Rape Victims Should Not Have Abortions

Soldano Said He Would Do Everything In His Power To Implement Something Similar To The Texas Six-Week Abortion Ban

Soldano Said He Would Do “Everything In My Power” To Implement Something Similar To The Texas Six-Week Abortion Ban. “Soldano is a chiropractor from Southwest Michigan who’s one of 13 Republicans running in the August primary. The winner likely will face Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who backs abortion rights, in November. He often espouses false or misleading claims about COVID-19 and YouTube banned his channel in

September for ‘severe or repeated violations’ of the site’s guidelines. During Soldano’s interview with Moss, he also said he will ‘do everything in my power’ to implement something like Texas’ six-week abortion ban in Michigan if he wins the election.” [Michigan Advance, [2/1/22](#)]

Soldano Repeatedly Said Rape Victims Should Not Have Abortions And Once Said It Was Because The “Baby Inside Them May Be The Next President”

Washington Post Headline: “Mich. GOP Governor Candidate Said Rape Victims Shouldn’t Have Abortions: ‘Baby Inside Them May Be The Next President.’” [Washington Post, [2/1/22](#)]

Soldano Said Rape Victims Who Became Pregnant Must “Protect That DNA And Allow It To Happen.” “In a clip that is now receiving widespread backlash, GOP gubernatorial candidate Garrett Soldano told a right-wing podcast on Jan. 19 that rape victims who become pregnant must ‘protect that DNA and allow it to happen.’” [Michigan Advance, [2/1/22](#)]

Soldano Said That Even When Victims Of Rape Become Pregnant, “We’re Always Going To Fight For Life.” “When Garrett Soldano was asked on a right-wing podcast how he would ‘ensure the sanctity of life’ in Michigan, the Republican candidate for governor said he would stop at nothing to protect a fetus. Even in cases where victims of rape become pregnant, Soldano said, ‘we’re always going to fight for life.’ ‘They don’t know that little baby inside them may be the next president, may be the next person who changes humanity,’ Soldano said on the ‘Face the Facts’ podcast.” [Washington Post, [2/1/22](#)]

Soldano Said Society Should Encourage Rape Victims To Deliver Their Babies Because “God Put Them In This Moment”

Soldano Said Society Should Encourage Rape Victims To Deliver Their Babies “Because God Put Them In This Moment.” “Soldano went on to say that society should encourage those who are pregnant — even those who are sexually assaulted — to deliver their babies. ‘How about we start inspiring women in the culture to let them understand and know how heroic they are and how unbelievable they are that God put them in this moment,’ he said.” [Washington Post, [2/1/22](#)]

Soldano Said There Was Fraud In The 2020 Election And It Was Stolen From Trump

Soldano Said The There Was Fraud In The 2020 Election And It Was Stolen From Trump. “Real estate broker Ryan Kelley has pleaded not guilty to misdemeanor charges after authorities said he rallied Trump’s supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol. Businessman Kevin Rinke was sued in the 1990s for sex harassment and racial discrimination — allegations he says were lies. Chiropractor Garrett Soldano hawked supplements he falsely claimed treated COVID-19. Businesswoman Tudor Dixon, who has been endorsed by Trump, has previously acted in low-budget horror pictures, one of which included a zombie biting off a man’s genitals. All of the candidates falsely say there was fraud in the 2020 election, with Dixon, Kelley and Soldano saying the election was stolen from Trump.” [PBS News, [8/1/22](#)]

Smith Donated To The Presidential Campaign Of Ben Carson Who Called To Repeal The Affordable Care Act That Provided Coverage To More Than 30,000 MI-08 Residents, Supported Cuts To Social Security And Medicare, And Compared Abortion To Slavery

2015: Smith Made Five Contributions To Ben Carson’s Presidential Campaign, Totaling \$250

2015: Smith Made Five Contributions To Ben Carson’s Presidential Campaign Totaling \$250. [FEC.gov, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

2015: Thomas Smith Political Contributions To Carson America			
Contributor	Recipient	Date	Amount

Thomas Smith	Carson America	12/1/15	\$50.00
Thomas Smith	Carson America	10/29/15	\$50.00
Thomas Smith	Carson America	9/28/15	\$50.00
Thomas Smith	Carson America	9/2/15	\$50.00
Thomas Smith	Carson America	7/22/15	\$50.00

[FEC.gov, accessed [5/27/26](#)]

Carson Called The Affordable Care Act The Worst Thing That Happened To The United States Since Slavery And Called For Its Repeal Which Would Threaten Health Care Access For More Than 30,000 Mid-Michiganders In MI-08

Carson Called For The Repeal Of Obamacare And Said It Was The Worst Thing That Happened To The United States Since Slavery

Carson Called For Repealing Obamacare. “Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson unveiled a broad outline Wednesday to reform health care in the United States, calling for the repeal of President Obama's signature health-care law while detailing a restructuring of Medicare that would raise the eligibility age to 70.” [New York Times, [12/9/15](#)]

Carson Said Obamacare Was The Worst Thing That Happened To The United States Since Slavery. “At the Values Voter Summit in October 2013, Carson remarked that ‘Obamacare is really I think the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery.’ ‘And it is in a way, it is slavery in a way, because it is making all of us subservient to the government, and it was never about health care. It was about control,’ he said.” [Politico, [11/6/15](#)]

2025: There Were More Than 30,000 MI-08 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans

2025: 33,421 Individuals In MI-08 Were Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

Number Of MI-08 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
Congressional District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
MI-08	33,421

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

Carson Called Social Security “Basically [...] A Ponzi Scheme” And Suggested “Gradually Start[ing] To Raise The [Retirement] Age,” And Said He Wanted To Eliminate Medicaid And Medicare

2015: Carson Called Social Security “Basically [...] A Ponzi Scheme” And Suggested Raising The Retirement Age For Anyone Under The Age Of 55

VIDEO: 2015: Carson Said Social Security “Basically Is A Ponzi Scheme.” QUESTION: “So, the number one driver of our debt, however, are entitlements, which raise some harder questions. Social Security, things that people have come to depend on. We have a lot of people in our tent, younger people, who are watching this. What are you going to do about those things – what are you going to do about their future?” CARSON: “Well, let me just address one of them, because we can talk about all of them all day long. Social Security, which basically is a Ponzi Scheme.” [Steamboat Institute Freedom Conference via YouTube, [8/28/15](#)]

2015: Carson Said He Wanted To “Raise The Age For Anybody Who Is Under The Age Of 55.” CARSON: “What we can do at that point is gradually start to raise the age for anybody who is under the age of 55.” [Steamboat Institute Freedom Conference via YouTube, [8/28/15](#)]

- **Carson Said He Advocated For Raising The Social Security Retirement Age.** STAR PARKER: “Social Security. Many political insiders are proposing an increased retirement age, in order to, according to them, ‘save the system.’ But while this might sound good for white collar workers like professors or politicians, who may want to die at their desk, the thought of blue collar workers like truck drivers and waitresses working until they’re 75 before they qualify for Social Security is a concern for some of us who advocate on behalf of low wage American workers. So my question is this: if you had a choice between raising the Social Security retirement age, or allowing younger workers to divert their payroll taxes away from the IRS and toward a personal IRA, which would you choose, and why?” CARSON: “Well actually, if you go to BenCarson.com, you’ll see I advocate both of those things.” [Carson Remarks - National Religious Broadcasters Convention via YouTube, 2/26/16]

Carson Supported Eliminating Medicare, Before Suggesting Raising The Eligibility Age To 70 Instead

2013: Carson Said He Wanted To Eliminate Medicare. “Dr. Carson also advocates an alternative to the Affordable Care Act. Most people could pay most of their medical bills through health savings accounts, he said in his office. He would eliminate Medicaid and Medicare, and for the poor, government would make the contributions to their health accounts.” [New York Times, 3/20/13]

Carson Wanted To Abolish The Medicare Program. “Republicans have fended off accusations for years that they’d gut Medicare for seniors and end the program ‘as we know it.’ Not Ben Carson. The former neurosurgeon acknowledges he would abolish the program altogether. Carson, who now leads the GOP field in Iowa according to the latest Quinnipiac Poll, would eliminate the program that provides health care to 49 million senior citizens, as well as Medicaid, and replace it with a system of cradle-to-grave savings accounts which would be funded with \$2,000 a year in government contributions. While rivals have been pummeled for proposing less radical changes, Carson hasn’t faced the same scrutiny -- and his continued traction in polls has left GOP strategists and conservative health care wonks scratching their heads.” [Politico, [10/22/15](#)]

- **Politico Headline: “Dr. Ben Carson’s Prescription: Abolish Medicare.”** [Politico, [10/22/15](#)]

2015: Carson Called For Increasing The Eligibility Age For Medicare To 70. “Dr. Carson's plan also aims to save Medicaid and modernize Medicare (by gradually increasing the eligibility age to 70). These programs will be reformed, not eliminated. For Medicaid, the federal government would provide fixed-dollar support to the states, which must use the funds for insurance premium payments for beneficiaries. For Medicare, beneficiaries would receive a fixed contribution to buy the health insurance they actually want and need. The enrollees of both programs will receive HEA accounts and would be able to choose medical insurance plans like every other American. This will foster healthy competition among private insurance companies, which in turn would promote the expansion of health care options in the marketplace.” [Carson Campaign Release – UCSB Archive, [12/9/15](#)]

Carson Supported A Balanced Budget Amendment, Which Would Threaten “Potentially Deep Cuts” To Both Social Security And Medicare

2015: Carson Supported A Balanced Budget Amendment

Carson Advocated For An Amendment To The Constitution That Would Require Congress To Balance The Federal Budget Every Year. “Like Paul, Carson has also advocated amending the Constitution to require Congress to balance the federal budget every year, which would mean that the government would be unable to borrow money and could only spend what it collects in taxes.” [Washington Post, [9/15/15](#)]

A Balanced Budget Amendment Would “Likely Harm Social Security And Medicare, Subjecting Both Programs To Potentially Deep Cuts”

Center for American Progress Headline: Center for American Progress: “The Balanced-Budget Amendment Threatens Americans’ Health Care, Social Security, and Jobs.” [Center for American Progress, [4/11/18](#)]

AARP Opposed The Balanced Budget Amendment Because It Would “Likely Harm Social Security And Medicare, Subjecting Both Programs To Potentially Deep Cuts.” “AARP is writing to express our opposition to a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States. [...] A balanced budget amendment would likely harm Social Security and Medicare, subjecting both programs to potentially deep cuts without regard to the impact on the health and financial security of individuals. It would also likely diminish the resources available for programs assisting Americans who are least able to provide for themselves – services such as meals or heating for those who are too poor or physically unable to take care of their basic needs without some support.” [AARP, Letter, [4/9/18](#)]

- **CBPP: Under A Balanced Budget Amendment, “Programs Such As Social Security, Medicare, National Defense, And Veterans’ Benefits Could Be Cut By An Average Of One-Fifth.”** “Programs such as Social Security, Medicare, national defense, and veterans’ benefits could be cut by an average of one-fifth under a constitutional amendment before the House this week to require a balanced budget in every year. If policymakers chose to protect some programs from cuts, the cuts in other programs would be even deeper. If they protected Social Security and Medicare, for example, all other programs would be cut by two-fifths.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [4/11/18](#)]

Under A Balanced Budget Amendment, Medicare Part A Would Not Be Able To Pay For Hospitalization Costs, Because It Is Funded Through A Fund Of Saved Treasury Securities. “Medicare Part A — the Hospital Insurance trust fund — has the same structure as Social Security. That trust fund currently holds about \$200 billion in Treasury securities, but under a balanced budget amendment, it would be unconstitutional for Medicare to draw down those savings to pay hospitalization costs because all federal expenditures — which includes Medicare payments — would have to be covered by taxes collected in the same year.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [3/16/18](#)]

Center On Budget And Policy Priorities (CBPP): Under A Balanced Budget Amendment, The Military And Federal Employee Civil Service Retirement Systems Would Not Be Able To Pay Retirees, Because They Are Funded Through Funds Of Saved Treasury Securities. “As a result, the \$700 billion in Treasury securities held by the military retirement trust fund and the \$900 billion in Treasury securities held by the civil service retirement trust fund would be unavailable to pay promised retirement pensions.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [3/16/18](#)]

2015: Ben Carson Said No Muslim Should Ever Become President Of The United States

Carson: “I Would Not Advocate That We Put A Muslim In Charge Of This Nation.” “The Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson has said no Muslim should be president of the United States of America. In an interview with NBC for broadcast on Sunday morning, the retired neurosurgeon said: ‘I would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation. I absolutely would not agree with that.’ Carson’s discussion with Meet the Press host Chuck Todd centered around controversy that arose this week when Donald Trump – the real-estate mogul keeping Carson in second place in the polls – failed to correct an audience member at a New Hampshire campaign rally who said President Obama was a Muslim.” [The Guardian, [7/20/15](#)]

- **The Guardian Headline: “Ben Carson Says No Muslim Should Ever Become US President.”** [The Guardian, [7/20/15](#)]

Carson Insisted That For A Muslim To Become President Of The United States, They Must Reject The Tenets Of Islam. “Ben Carson insisted Sunday that for a Muslim to become president of the United States, ‘you have to reject the tenets of Islam.’ ‘Yes, you have to,’ the retired neurosurgeon and Republican presidential candidate said Sunday in an interview with CNN’s Jake Tapper on ‘State of the Union.’ His latest criticism of Islam came the week after he’d said he ‘would not advocate that we put a Muslim in charge of this nation.’” [CNN, [9/27/15](#)]

Carson Was Opposed To Abortion, Even In Cases Of Rape Or Incest, And Compared It To Slavery

Carson Said He Was Opposed To Abortion And Believed Life Began At Conception. “Retired neurosurgeon and Republican presidential hopeful Dr. Ben Carson today maintained his opposition to abortion, saying he believes life begins at conception, but he declined to say on ‘This Week’ whether he feels there should be any exceptions, such as when a woman is impregnated during a rape.” [ABC News, [8/16/15](#)]

Carson Said He Wouldn’t Allow Abortions In Cases Of Rape Or Incest. “In an interview with Chuck Todd on NBC’s ‘Meet the Press’ Carson laid out his extreme anti-abortion positions which include banning safe and legal abortion, restricting women from making their own health care decisions, and not allowing any exceptions for rape and incest -- he would not say whether he would support an exception for the life and health of the mother.” [Planned Parenthood Action, [11/25/15](#)]

Carson Compared Abortion To Slavery, And Said He Wanted Roe V. Wade Overturned. “Ben Carson today compared abortion to slavery and said that he ultimately wants to see Roe vs. Wade overturned, despite the fact that the majority of Americans believe abortion should be safe and legal. He also said that women need to stop viewing their babies as their enemy (full transcript below).” [Planned Parenthood Action, [11/25/15](#)]

Carson Signed An Anti-Same-Sex Marriage Pledge, Compared Homosexual Relationships To Pedophilia And Bestiality, And Asked People To Consider Why “A Lot Of People Who Go Into Prison Straight And When They Come Out, They’re Gay”

Carson Said That Being Gay Was A Choice And Wanted People To Consider Why “A Lot Of People Who Go Into Prison Straight And When They Come Out, They’re Gay.” “Two months before he declared his candidacy, Carson sat down on CNN’s ‘New Day’ and in the course of the interview remarked that being gay is a choice, citing the example of people who go to prison straight and come out gay. ‘A lot of people who go into prison straight and when they come out, they’re gay, so did something happen while they were in there? Ask yourself that question,’ he told Chris Cuomo.” [Politico, [11/6/15](#)]

Carson Pledged To Support A Federal Constitutional Amendment That Defined Marriage As A Union Between One Man And One Woman. “Four of the 17 Republican presidential candidates have pledged to support a federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman, an anti-same-sex marriage group said Tuesday. The National Organization for Marriage said Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson signed the group’s pledge ‘to take several specific actions as president to restore marriage to the law and protect people of faith from discrimination because of their support for traditional marriage.’” [CNN, [8/25/15](#)]

CNN Headline: “4 GOP Candidates Sign Anti-Same-Sex Marriage Pledge.” [CNN, [8/25/15](#)]

Smith Showed Support For Multiple Far-Right Extremists Who Opposed Abortion, Embraced Antisemitic Rhetoric, And Defended Republican’s Tariffs That Raised Costs On Michiganders

Smith Praised Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, Who Wanted To Overturn Roe V. Wade For 30 Years And Tried To Protect Republican’s Tariffs

Smith Called Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas An Absolute Legend

Smith Called Clarence Thomas An Absolute Legend. [Facebook, Thomas Smith, [5/1/21](#)]



Clarence Thomas Wanted To Overturn Roe V. Wade For 30 Years

Overturning Roe V. Wade Was A Significant Victory For Thomas. “In what many will consider the U.S. Supreme Court's biggest decision in a generation, the court has overturned the landmark 1973 ruling Roe v. Wade, which guaranteed constitutional protection of abortion rights. The court's conservative majority ruled in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization that their predecessors erred 49 years ago by finding a woman's right to abortion was protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The decision also represents a significant victory for Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, who has been clear that he believes Roe should be overturned.” [Newsweek, [6/24/22](#)]

- **Newsweek Headline: “How Clarence Thomas Finally Triumphed in 30-Year Battle Against Roe v. Wade.”** [Newsweek, [6/24/22](#)]

Thomas Opposed The Supreme Court’s Decision To Block Trump’s Use Of Tariffs, Which Made Life More Expensive For Michiganders And Cost The State’s Businesses Billions

February 2026: Thomas Opposed The Supreme Court’s Decision To Block Trump’s Use Of Tariffs

February 2026: Thomas Opposed The Supreme Court’s Decision To Block Trump’s Use Of Tariffs. “Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas ripped the court's decision blocking President Donald Trump’s use of an emergency law to impose sweeping tariffs on trading partners, calling it a fundamental misread of both the governing statute and the Constitution’s separation of powers.” [Fox News, [2/23/26](#)]

2026: Trump’s Tariffs Were Estimated To Cost American Families More Than \$2,500 Each

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](#)]

November 2025: A Report Ordered By Governor Whitmer Linked Republican’s Tariffs To Rising Prices And Slower Growth Across Michigan

Michigan Advance Headline: “Whitmer-Ordered Report Links Trump’s Tariffs To Rising Prices And Slower Growth Across Michigan.” [Michigan Advance, [11/6/25](#)]

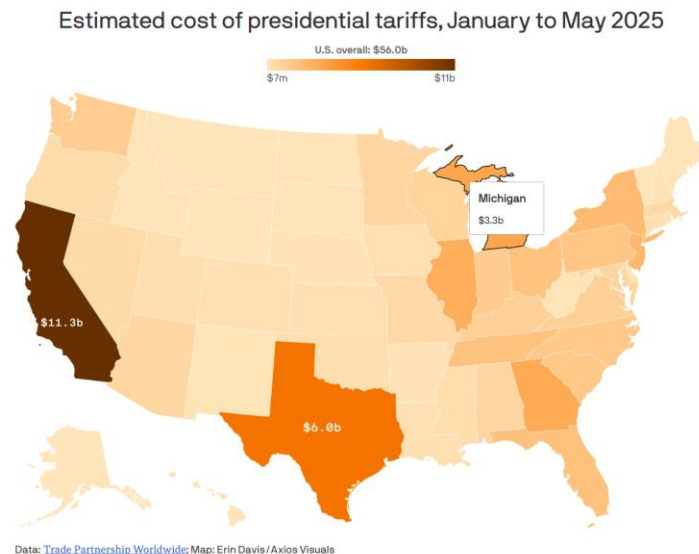
- **The Report Noted A Sharp Drop In Exports For Michigan’s Agriculture Sector.** “In Michigan’s agriculture sector, the report notes a sharp drop in exports: wheat exports declined 89%, cherries down 62%, apples down 58%, and soybeans down 46%. Rising consumer food costs: the report estimates a 3.6% increase in food prices this year due to tariffs, with households in the bottom 10-20% income bracket facing as much as a 5% drop in disposable income. In the housing market, tariff-driven material cost increases are estimated to raise the price of a new home by about \$10,900. Infrastructure and construction projects are also being affected, with state transportation officials projecting that the combined effects of tariffs and inflation could raise costs up to \$218 million for road and bridge projects.” [Michigan Advance, [11/6/25](#)]
- **The Report Found Tariffs Were Expected To Raise The Price Of A New Home In Michigan By Almost \$11,000.** “In Michigan’s agriculture sector, the report notes a sharp drop in exports: wheat exports declined 89%, cherries down 62%, apples down 58%, and soybeans down 46%. Rising consumer food costs: the report estimates a 3.6% increase in food prices this year due to tariffs, with households in the bottom 10-20% income bracket facing as much as a 5% drop in disposable income. In the housing market, tariff-driven material cost increases are estimated to raise the price of a new home by about \$10,900. Infrastructure and construction projects are also being affected, with state transportation officials projecting that the combined effects of tariffs and inflation could raise costs up to \$218 million for road and bridge projects.” [Michigan Advance, [11/6/25](#)]
- **The Report Found Tariffs And Inflation Were Estimated To Raise Costs In Michigan For Road And Bridge Projects By Up To \$218 Million.** “In Michigan’s agriculture sector, the report notes a sharp drop in exports: wheat exports declined 89%, cherries down 62%, apples down 58%, and soybeans down 46%. Rising consumer food costs: the report estimates a 3.6% increase in food prices this year due to tariffs, with households in the bottom 10-20% income bracket facing as much as a 5% drop in disposable income. In the housing market, tariff-driven material cost increases are estimated to raise the price of a new home by about \$10,900. Infrastructure and construction projects are also being affected, with state transportation officials projecting that the combined effects of tariffs and inflation could raise costs up to \$218 million for road and bridge projects.” [Michigan Advance, [11/6/25](#)]

Michigan Ranked Third Nationally In Tariff-Related Economic Burden According To Analysis From Trade Partnership Worldwide, Costing The State’s Businesses An Estimated \$3.3 Billion

Axios Detroit: Michigan Was Third Among States Hit Hardest By President Trump’s Tariffs, Behind Only California And Texas According To Analysis From Economic Research Firm Trade Partnership Worldwide. “Michigan is third among states hit hardest by President Trump’s tariffs, behind only California and Texas, new research shows. The big picture: The tariffs have generated tens of billions of dollars in revenue for the government. But the burden falls far from equally on different states. [...] Driving the news: Economic research firm Trade Partnership Worldwide shared a new analysis with Axios showing the state-by-state cost of tariffs imposed by Trump from January through May. By the numbers: From January 1 to May 31 of this year, Michigan businesses faced a tariff impact of \$3.3 billion. California’s cost was \$11.3 billion and Texas’s was \$6 billion. In total, in 17 states companies faced a total impact of at least \$1 billion over the first five months of the year.” [Axios Detroit, [7/11/25](#)]

January-May 2025: Trump’s Tariffs Cost Michigan Businesses An Estimated \$3.3 Billion. “Michigan is third among states hit hardest by President Trump’s tariffs, behind only California and Texas, new research shows. The big picture: The tariffs have generated tens of billions of dollars in revenue for the government. But the burden falls

far from equally on different states. [...] Driving the news: Economic research firm Trade Partnership Worldwide shared a new analysis with Axios showing the state-by-state cost of tariffs imposed by Trump from January through May. By the numbers: From January 1 to May 31 of this year, Michigan businesses faced a tariff impact of \$3.3 billion. California's cost was \$11.3 billion and Texas's was \$6 billion. In total, in 17 states companies faced a total impact of at least \$1 billion over the first five months of the year." [Axios Detroit, [7/11/25](#)]



[Axios Detroit, [7/11/25](#)]

Michigan Public Radio Headline: “Economist: Michigan To Feel Pain Of Tariffs Earlier, And Worse, Than Many Other States.” [Michigan Public Radio, [2/1/25](#)]

Michigan Was Especially Vulnerable To Trump’s Tariffs Due To Its Heavy Reliance On International Trade And The Auto Industry

Detroit Free Press: “Michigan Stands To Be One Of The Hardest Hit States In The Nation” From Trump’s Tariffs. “At 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, President Donald Trump moved ahead with a plan to put tariffs of 25% on goods imported into the U.S. from Canada and Mexico and Michigan stands to be one of the hardest hit states in the nation, depending on what happens next and how long a potential trade war drags on. Canada and China, which was also hit with new tariffs, already announced retaliatory measures as Trump imposed the new taxes on imported goods, a move most economists believe will increase prices for Americans. Trump has also said that next month he will impose worldwide tariffs on any country that taxes the import of U.S. goods.” [Detroit Free Press, [3/4/25](#)]

- **2023: Michigan Ranked Second Nationally In States That Import From Mexico.** “Only one other state, Illinois, imported more (by value, using Census Bureau trade figures from 2023) from Canada than Michigan did. Only Texas imported more from Mexico. And while the state is further down the list in terms of Chinese imports – 12th – the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, when it looked at the effect of tariffs on Chinese goods imposed by Trump in his first term as president, found Michigan and its auto industry, with suppliers also relying heavily on imported items from that country, too, among the most exposed to harm from increased prices.” [Detroit Free Press, [2/1/25](#)]
- **2023: Michigan Ranked Second Nationally In States That Import From Canada.** “Only one other state, Illinois, imported more (by value, using Census Bureau trade figures from 2023) from Canada than Michigan did. Only Texas imported more from Mexico. And while the state is further down the list in terms of Chinese imports – 12th – the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, when it looked at the effect of tariffs on Chinese goods imposed by Trump in his first term as president, found Michigan and its auto industry, with suppliers also relying heavily on imported items from that country, too, among the most exposed to harm from increased prices.” [Detroit Free Press, [2/1/25](#)]

Tariffs Wreaked Havoc On Michigan's Agricultural Industry And Threatened Over 5,000 Farm Producers And 3,000 Farms In The 8th Congressional District

2022: Michigan's Agricultural Industry's Net Farm Income Was Nearly \$3 Billion. According to USDA Census of Agriculture, Michigan's net cash farm income of operations was \$2,982,912,000. [2022 Census of Agriculture, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

Michigan Ranked 13th Nationally In Soybean Production With Saginaw County As One The Major Producers In The State. "Since Jan. 20, President Donald Trump has increased tariffs on U.S. imports from all global partners, triggering retaliatory tariffs by China, Canada and the European Union on U.S. exports, including soybeans. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the value of soybean exports reached \$24.47 billion in 2024. China was the largest international market, contributing \$12.64 billion, and sales to the European Union generated \$2.45 billion in revenue. Major soybean-producing counties include Gratiot, Lenawee, Saginaw, Shiawassee and Sanilac. The National Agricultural Statistics Service ranks Michigan 13th nationally in soybean production, behind neighboring states Indiana (4th), Ohio (7th) and Wisconsin (12th)." [Capital News Service, [10/10/25](#)]

2025: Federally Imposed Tariffs Caused Michigan Farm Exports To Be Depressed. "Michigan's agriculture is the state's second largest industry contributing an annual \$126 billion to the state's economy. But federal tariffs are negatively impacting farmers and consumers this year. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is tracking some distressing trends. In 2024, the state set a new ag-related products export record, generating \$3 billion. So far this year, with federally imposed tariffs, Michigan farm exports are depressed." [WGVU News, [12/1/25](#)]

2025: Michigan Soybean, Wheat, Cherry, And Fresh Apples Exports Dropped Significantly. "The state report site, Michigan soybean meal exports 'dropped by over \$62 million, or 46 percent, in the first half of 2025 compared to the same period last year.' Grains like wheat exports were also depressed 89 percent. Michigan fruit growers are also feeling the squeeze, fresh cherry exports dropped 62 percent, and fresh apples fell 58 percent. Boring says whether its row crops or fruit and vegetables most balance sheets aren't looking positive this year and next. The question now is, have the trade flows been so altered that they could take years to restore?" [WGVU News, [12/1/25](#)]

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- **WGVU News Headline: "Tariffs Trigger Steep Declines In Michigan Farm Exports, Raising Concerns For Long-Term Stability."** [WGVU News, [12/1/25](#)]

September 2025: Farm Groups In Michigan Were "Sounding The Alarm" Regarding Tariffs. "Farm groups have been sounding the alarm on the impacts of tariffs on Michigan farmers for months, citing the state's close two-way trade relationship with Canada and the possibilities of restricted markets, decreased profits for farmers and higher food prices for consumers." [Bridge Michigan, [9/18/25](#)]

- **Bridge Michigan Headline: Trade War, Drought Squeeze Michigan Farmers Heading To Fall Harvest.** [Bridge Michigan, [9/18/25](#)]

2022: There Were Over 5,000 Farm Producers In Michigan's 8th Congressional District. According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture from the National Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5,130 total farm producers in Michigan's 8th congressional district. [2022 Census of Agriculture, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

2022: There Were Over 3,000 Farms In Michigan's 8th Congressional District. According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture from the National Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 3,078 farms in Michigan's 8th congressional district. [2022 Census of Agriculture, accessed [12/4/25](#)]

Smith Praised Candace Owens, Who Embraced Antisemitic Rhetoric

Smith Called Candace Owens An Absolute Legend

Smith Called Candace Owens An Absolute Legend. [Facebook, Thomas Smith, [5/1/21](#)]



Candace Owens Embraced Antisemitic Rhetoric

Owens Left The Daily Wire After She Embraced Antisemitic Rhetoric. "The Daily Wire, the right-wing media outlet co-founded by Ben Shapiro, said Friday that it had severed ties with Candace Owens, the far-right commentator who has ignited a torrent of backlash in recent months for her repeated embrace of antisemitic rhetoric." [CNN, [3/22/24](#)]

Smith Praised David Clarke, Who Frequently Pushed Extreme Views Including Anti-Abortion Rhetoric And Comparing Obama To Hitler

Smith Called David Clarke An Absolute Legend

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David Clarke Referred To Planned Parenthood As “Planned Genocide”

Clarke Referred To Planned Parenthood As “Planned Genocide.” “For the uninitiated, David Clarke has an appalling record on just about every topic. He made headlines in April when a prisoner died of ‘profound dehydration,’ having been denied water for seven days in one of Clarke’s jails. A special jury has recommended criminal charges in the case, one of four deaths in just six-months that prompted state lawmakers to call for Clarke’s resignation and the Department of Justice to consider an investigation. Clarke is a vocal critic of criminal justice reform, believes there is a ‘war on police,’ and likens Black Lives Matter to a ‘hate group’ and “terrorist organization’ that ‘will join forces with ISIS to being [sic] down our legal constituted republic.’ He refers to Planned Parenthood as ‘Planned Genocide’ and says that transgender individuals “suffer from mental disorders” and live a ‘freakish lifestyle.’” [Brennan Center, [5/24/17](#)]

Clarke Compared President Obama To Hitler

Clarke Compared President Obama To Hitler. “It is hard to imagine a worse pick for DHS, but that may be just the point. Clarke is another poison-pill appointment. He has been outright hostile to federal law enforcement efforts, once comparing President Obama to Adolf Hitler for trying to ‘federalize local police.’ He is also reported to have recent ties to anti-government extremist groups, accepting an award last year from the ‘Oath Keepers,’ described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as “one of the largest radical antigovernment groups in the U.S. today.”” [Brennan Center, [5/24/17](#)]