

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Jay Campbell, Hart Research
DATE: October 14, 2026
RE: Energy Affordability in the Final Three Weeks

Hart Research completed a survey¹ for Climate Power, EDF Action, League of Conservation Voters Action Fund, NRDC Action Fund, and the Utility Action Alliance of voters across 61 House districts which the *Cook Political Report* rates as Lean D (11 districts), Toss Up (22), Lean R (10), or Likely R (18). This is the third in a series of surveys tracking the opinions of battleground district voters about energy costs and affordability.

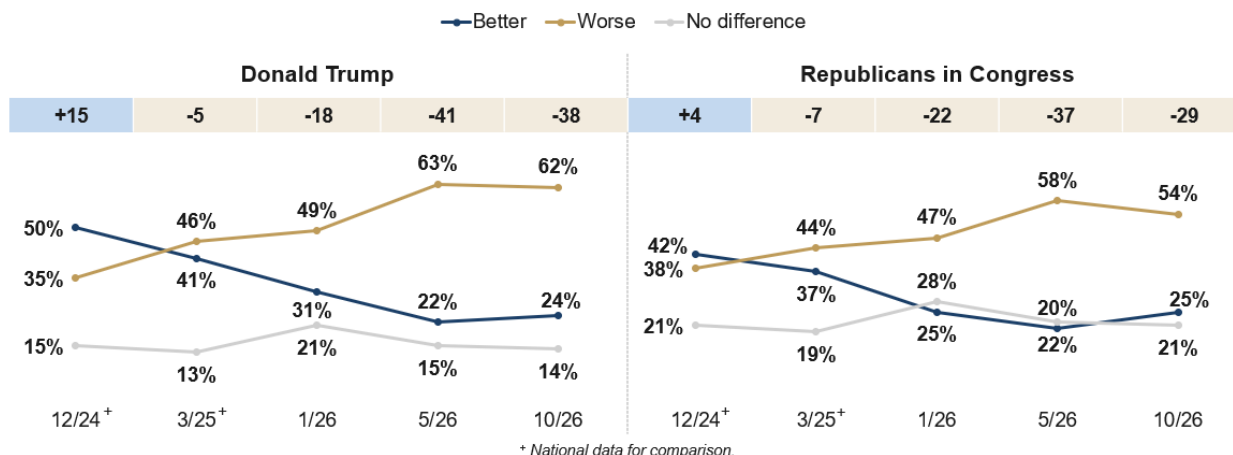
Main Takeaway: Battleground district voters blame Republicans and their policies for worsening energy prices, and this is a top voting issue for them in the midterm elections. Trump's and Republicans' current approach to U.S. energy has created an increasingly dissatisfied coalition of voters, giving Democratic campaigns a clear advantage in battleground districts and serving as a tangible example of Republican energy policies and corruption leading to higher costs.

Key Findings

- Energy costs are two of voters' top-three most important voting issues.** Food costs continue to lead voters' list of important issues (68%), but the #2 and #3 spots are held by gas prices (46%) and the cost of utilities like heating and electricity (37%), each of which are up several points in importance from May.
- Voters blame Trump for higher energy prices, with room to strengthen accountability for Republicans.** Six in 10 voters say Donald Trump is making things worse for consumers on energy prices. Fifty-four percent (54%) say the same of Republicans in Congress, down a few points from May—so while voters lean toward blaming the GOP, their complicity can be amplified.

Voters say Republicans are making things worse.

Is each of the following making things better or worse for consumers when it comes to energy prices?



¹ n=1,024 registered voters interviewed online, credibility interval of ±3.5 percentage points; data collected October 5-8.

- 3) **Voters—especially undecided voters—strongly oppose Trump’s energy actions.** Large majorities of voters say they are against four major energy policy actions taken by the Trump administration. Opposition is eight to 12 points higher than average among voters who are as yet undecided on how they will vote for Congress.

Heavy Opposition to Trump Administration Actions on Energy

	Support %	Oppose %	Undecided Voters/Oppose %
Using \$4 billion in taxpayer money to pay companies to cancel and abandon new wind energy projects	23	77	88
Canceling grants that were aimed at lowering utility bills by bringing new clean energy to rural communities	27	73	81
Using “emergency orders” to force coal power plants to stay open, even when there are cleaner and cheaper energy options available	37	63	75
Repealing tax incentives for companies to increase U.S. clean energy production	41	59	69

- 4) **Democrats have reversed Republicans’ trust advantage on energy, and they now lead on lowering both utility and gas costs for consumers.** At the moment, only one in four voters say that Democrats in Congress are making energy prices better for consumers. But, over the course of the year voters’ trust in Democrats to improve the country’s energy situation—including in lowering people’s bills—has increased, while their faith in Republicans has declined.

Voters’ Increasing Trust of Democrats on Energy

Who do you trust more to do each of the following?

■ Donald Trump and the Republicans in Congress ■ Both/Neither ■ The Democrats in Congress

	Jan 2026			DEM Adv.	Oct 2026			DEM Adv.
Lower monthly utility bills	30%		26%	-4	27%		38%	+11
Lower the cost of gasoline and diesel	30%		35%	+5*	28%		38%	+10
Upgrade and improve the reliability of the electric grid	35%		30%	-5	31%		35%	+4
Have a long-term plan to meet the country's energy needs	38%		27%	-11	30%		35%	+5
Make the United States energy-independent	43%		29%	-14	33%		32%	-1

* Data from May 2026

- 5) **Americans are extremely dissatisfied with the energy status quo, especially when they are reminded of Trump’s policies.** Early in the survey, 53% of voters say the way the U.S. produces, delivers, and manages energy needs a complete overhaul (12%) or major changes (41%). After spending the survey thinking more about energy costs, and after reading about the Trump policies shown above, this increases to 64% (19% complete overhaul, 44% major changes). The shift in favor of major changes is especially large in Lean R and Likely R districts.

- 6) **Democrats hold a narrow battleground lead, with a strong advantage in the most contested districts and with swing voters.** Democrats lead Republicans on the generic ballot by three points across the 61 districts surveyed, including a nine-point lead in Cook's toss-up districts. They also lead in Lean D and Lean R districts; Republicans lead only in Likely R districts.

Generic Ballot Results by <i>Cook Political Report</i> Race Rating			
	Democrat	Republican	Lead
	%	%	+
<i>All Battleground Districts</i>	49	46	D+3
Lean D districts	50	45	D+5
Toss-up districts	52	43	D+9
Lean R districts	49	47	D+2
Likely R districts	45	49	R+4

Across all districts, Democrats are leading with swing groups who will be key on Election Day:

- Highly motivated voters: Democrat 53%, Republican 45%
- Latino voters: Democrat 60%, Republican 34%
- Voters under age 35: Democrat 54%, Republican 39%
- Independents: Democrat 38%, Republican 19% (43% are undecided)