

“The Facts About Gas Prices” Narrative

Slide 1: “The Facts About Gas Prices”

Slide 2: Skyrocketing Gas Prices Under the Obama Administration

- Since President Obama has taken office, the average national price of gasoline has DOUBLED.
- The rising cost of gasoline means less money for families struggling to make ends meet and for job creators who are trying to get our economy moving again by hiring more workers.
- How many of you are fed up when you fill up?

Slide 3: “Are You Fed Up When You Fill Up?”

- How many of you are outraged by how much you paid the last time you filled up?
- “I know I am” (action item: Hold up a receipt of your most recent fill up)
- Gas prices directly affect the family budget every time you drive to work, take family members to the Doctor’s office, or drop your children off at school.
- Rising gas prices impact all levels of our lives – the price of food, goods, and services all factor in transportation costs.
- Our current dependence on foreign sources of energy is a threat to our national and economic security.

Slide 4: What We Pay for a Gallon of Regular Gasoline

- As much as some want to blame corporations or boogie-men for high prices, the fact is the higher the price of crude oil, the more you pay at the pump.
- 68 percent of the price of a gallon of gasoline is based on the price of crude oil. When production is down, or supplies are uncertain, the price goes up.
- Unfortunately, we have too little control over the price of oil because just over half of the oil we consume is [produced in foreign countries](#), some that face political and economic turmoil.
- Instead of opening up a more stable supply of oil producing more here at home, the Obama administration has created yet another taxpayer funded task force to investigate the role oil refiners plan in the rising cost of their product.

- Even the President’s own Federal Trade Commission (FTC) [recently determined](#) that “gas prices are going up because of normal market forces.”
- If we want to lower gas prices, we need to supply more oil, and that should start by using our resources right here at home, in America.

Slide 5: “What Are Washington Democrats Doing?”

- Blocking American energy production
- Promoting foreign energy production
- Raising energy taxes

Slide 6: “U.S. Energy Resources By Region”

- This chart highlights the vast amount of American energy resources that are under lock and key under the Obama Administration.

Slide 7: “The Obama Administration is Blocking American Energy Development”

- Instead of working to tackle the underlying problem that we have depending on foreign sources of oil, the administration is blocking access American resources.
- 98 percent of the Federal Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and 95 percent of our onshore federal lands are currently unleased through a de facto drilling moratorium.
- This de facto moratorium has created delays in the permit process, which is sending American companies to locations overseas to explore for oil, taking much-needed American jobs with them.
- We need more energy from every available source, rather than allowing Washington bureaucrats to completely close off our access to America’s vast energy reserves, whether deep in the sea or deep underground.

Slide 8: “The Obama Administration is Blocking American Energy Development”

- Don’t take my word for it...
- According to an academic study conducted at Louisiana State University, the 18 month de facto ban on deepwater exploration has resulted in over 24,000 jobs lost in the gulf coast and over 36,000 jobs lost nationwide.

Slide 9: “President Obama Supports Domestic Energy Production...in BRAZIL!”

- The president is offering to help Brazil drill for oil – an effort to make the U.S. [“one of \[their\] best customers”](#) – while continuing to block offshore drilling and the jobs it would create here at home.
- While Americans are struggling to pay their energy bills, the Obama plan will block American energy production, outsource energy production to foreign countries, and outsource American jobs.

Slide 10: “What Does This Mean For Us?”

- More American jobs sent overseas
- More revenue for our economy lost
- More pain at the pump for Americans

Slide 11: “New Energy Taxes”

- Not only does the Administration want to send American energy production overseas, but the Administration supports new energy taxes, including taxes on American energy companies and taxes on American drivers.

Slide 12: “CRS Study on Democrat Proposed Energy Tax Hikes”

- The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service released a report in March stating that the President’s plan to increase taxes on American energy companies would “make oil and natural gas more expensive in the United States and likely increase our foreign dependency” on oil.

Slide 13: “The Obama Odometer Tax”

- The Obama Administration is now [proposing a new driving tax](#) that will let the government monitor how many miles you drive and require that you pay another tax for using your car.
- To study and implement this tax, they want to spend \$200 million for a new government office and more federal bureaucrats.

Slide 14: “What Are House Republicans Doing?”

- It is a fact that relying on even more foreign oil, taxing your driving, and keeping American resources under lock and key will do nothing to make us energy independent or lower the cost of fuel.
- House Republicans know that to lower gas prices we need to:
- First, stop government policies that are driving up gas prices,
- Second: expand American energy production to help lower costs and create jobs, and
- Third: promote an “all of the above” strategy to increase all forms of American energy, whether it’s oil, natural gas, solar or wind.

Slide 15: “House Republicans: Fighting for New American Energy Production”

- We did not get into this situation overnight, and we won’t get out of it overnight.
- But Republicans have tried to address these issues for years.
- In 2008, when gas prices spike to a then all time high, we/they introduced the American Energy Act (H.R. 6566).
- The American Energy Act would have increased production of American-made energy, promoted new, clean, and reliable sources of energy, cut red tape and increased the supply of American-made fuel and energy, and encouraged greater energy efficiency by offering conservation tax incentives.
- Unfortunately, then-Speaker Pelosi and Congressional Democrats refused to allow a vote on the bill.
- If Democrats in Congress had followed our lead back then when gas prices hit record highs, we would be on a path to American energy production today.

Slide 16: “House Republicans Are Taking Action”

- Over the past two weeks, House Republicans have passed three bills which would: end the de facto drilling moratorium in the Gulf of Mexico, require the Administration to move forward with conducting offshore leases in the Gulf of Mexico and Virginia, and lift the President’s ban on new offshore drilling.

Slide 17: “House Republicans Are Taking Action”

- By blocking common sense policies to make energy more affordable and advocating policies that will cause further pain at the pump, the Administration and Democrats in Congress have failed to lower energy costs for today and secure energy independence for our children and grandchildren tomorrow.
- These three bills, if signed into law, are estimated to create 250,000 jobs in the short term and 1.2 million jobs in the long term, according to the academic report from Louisiana State University.

Slide 18: “House Republicans Are Taking Action”

- Republicans are committed to policies that will promote America’s energy independence, lower gas prices, and help create more jobs for Americans.
- With that – I will open it up to your thoughts and questions on what you think Congress can do to lower the cost of gas and make America more energy independent.

Slide 19: “Additional Slides”

Slide 20: “World Oil, Natural Gas, and Coal Recoverable Resources”

According to a recent [Congressional Research Service \(CRS\) report](#), the United States’ combined recoverable oil, natural gas and coal resources is **1.3 trillion barrels of oil equivalent – the largest in the world.**

This figure does not include the United States’ oil shale and methane hydrate resources

Slide 21: “America’s True Oil Resources”

Oil Resources

It’s often stated that the United States has just 2% of the world’s oil resources – yet this is meant to mislead, underestimating America’s true energy resources. The 2% figure is a narrow estimate based only on America’s *proved reserves* – which is the amount of oil that has actually been discovered through drilling.

Proved Oil Reserves = 28.4 billion barrels

Technically Recoverable Oil Resources = 134.5 billion barrels

Total U.S. Oil Endowment = 162.9 billion barrels of oil¹

The [CRS report](#) shows that the U.S. has huge amounts of oil resources that exist in unexplored areas – these are known as *technically recoverable oil resources*.

All of the United States' oil, both discovered and in unexplored areas, must be taken into account in order to accurately reflect our nation's true oil resources. Only looking at proved oil reserves ignores 83% of the oil we know we have in the United States.

Oil Shale

The United States' total amount of oil resources, as calculated by CRS, does not even include our oil shale resources. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. holds more than half of the world's oil shale resources.

The largest known deposits of oil shale are located in a 16,000-square mile area in the Green River formation in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

According to [USGS estimates](#), **the region may hold more than 1.5 trillion barrels of oil** – six times Saudi Arabia's proven resources, and enough to provide the United States with energy for the next 200 years.

Slide 22: “American Oil Resources in Unexplored Areas”

Oil Resources

Where Are Undiscovered U.S. Oil Resources Located?

The vast majority of our country's resources are in areas that have yet to be explored or produced. This means that expanding American energy production would greatly increase our domestic supply of oil and create good-paying American jobs.

Total Onshore Technically Recoverable Oil Resources = 48.6 billion barrels

Total Offshore Technically Recoverable Oil Resources = 85.8 billion barrels

Slide 23: “America's True Natural Gas Resources

Natural Gas

The United States also has a large supply of natural gas. Once again, the vast majority of our natural gas resources are located in areas that have yet to be explored.

Proved Natural Gas Reserves = 244.7 trillion cubic feet

Technically Recoverable Natural Gas Resources = 1,176.2 trillion cubic feet

Total U.S. Natural Gas Endowment = 1420.9 trillion cubic feet

Shale Gas

The CRS numbers above do not include shale gas resources. Exploration and production of shale gas is increasing, though it's still considered an unconventional energy source. [CRS](#) reports that the Potential Gas Committee estimated that the United States has **616 trillion cubic feet** of potential natural gas resources in the form of shale gas.

Methane Hydrates

The CRS numbers also don't include methane hydrates. Natural gas in the form of methane hydrates is not yet commercially viable, but has the potential to be a new a source of energy.

According to [CRS](#), "the mean in-place gas hydrate resource for the entire United States is estimated to **be 320,000 trillion cubic feet of gas**, with approximately half of this resource occurring offshore of Alaska and most of the remainder occurring beneath the continental margins of the lower 48 states."

Slide 24: American Natural Gas Resources in Unexplored Areas

Natural Gas

Where Are Undiscovered U.S. Natural Gas Resources Located?

Total Onshore Technically Recoverable Natural Gas Resources = 756.31 trillion cubic feet

Total Offshore Technically Recoverable Natural Gas Resources = 419.8 trillion cubic feet

The majority of the United States' undiscovered natural gas resources are located in unexplored areas onshore.

Slide 25: "World Coal Resources"

Coal

The United States has the world's largest supply of coal. However, only a little over 50% of our coal resources are currently available to be produced through mining.

Total U.S. coal reserves = 488 billion short tons

U.S. coal reserves that can actually be produced through mining = 261 billion short tons

Note: One short ton = 2,000 pounds.

The United States produces and consumes just 1 billion short tons of coal per year - meaning our country has enough coal reserves to last hundreds of years.

Slide 26: “Summary of U.S. Energy Resources