



As Economic Concerns Rise, Lee County Families Feel the Pressure

Recent polling shows growing dissatisfaction with the economy nationwide—and even within Republican ranks, support for Donald Trump’s economic leadership is slipping. His approval ratings on the economy have dropped to the lowest levels of either of his terms, with 41% of Republicans expressing disapproval on the cost of living. Across the country, 55% of Americans say their financial situation is getting worse—the highest level in 25 years.

That economic anxiety is being felt here in Lee County. Rising housing costs continue to squeeze families, with rent and home prices still out of reach for many local workers. At the same time, residents are dealing with higher grocery bills, elevated gas prices, and increasing health insurance premiums—pressures that mirror national trends. Analysts estimate the average American family is paying about \$5,000 more this year because of tariffs and rising costs, a burden that hits especially hard in a region with many retirees and service industry workers.

Meanwhile, confidence in economic leadership appears to be shifting. For the first time in over a decade, a recent poll found Americans prefer Democrats over Republicans on the economy. Only 18% of voters now strongly approve of Trump’s performance, including less than half of those who supported him in 2024.

As policymakers debate priorities, many voters—both nationally and in Lee County—are focused on one question: how to bring down everyday costs and restore economic stability for working families.