



## December 2023

### Survival Guide for Holiday Gatherings

Holidays can be challenging times to have conversations with family and friends, so we have compiled a few resources to help support you during this Holiday Season.

**Topic #1:** High grocery prices, cost of living.

**Answer:** “GREEDFLATION” is driving consumer costs. Corporations are raising prices and reaping huge profits. Biden is getting a bum rap for high prices.

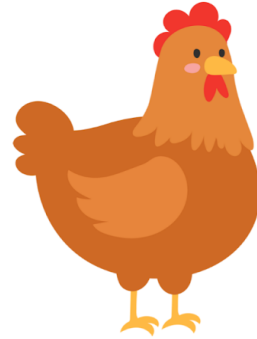
- Former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich has written some very smart [articles that address corporate monopolies consumer price gouging.](#)
- Democratic Senator Bob Casey-PA has released two eye-opening reports: one called [GREEDFLATION](#) that chronicles how corporations are raking in record profits at the expense of middle-class American families. The second report is holiday-specific: [“Stuffing Their Pockets: How Big Food and Agriculture Businesses Are Making Your Holiday Meals More Expensive”](#)

## PROFITS ARE UP

Higher prices have meant higher profits for chicken producers. Tyson Foods, the largest producer of chicken in the US and one of the largest producers of beef and pork, doubled its profits in the final quarter of 2021<sup>11</sup> and then reported record sales and earnings 2022, the last full year available.<sup>12</sup>

Pilgrim's Pride, the second-largest chicken producer in the US, saw its net revenue increase by 53 percent in just three years from 2019-2022.<sup>13</sup>

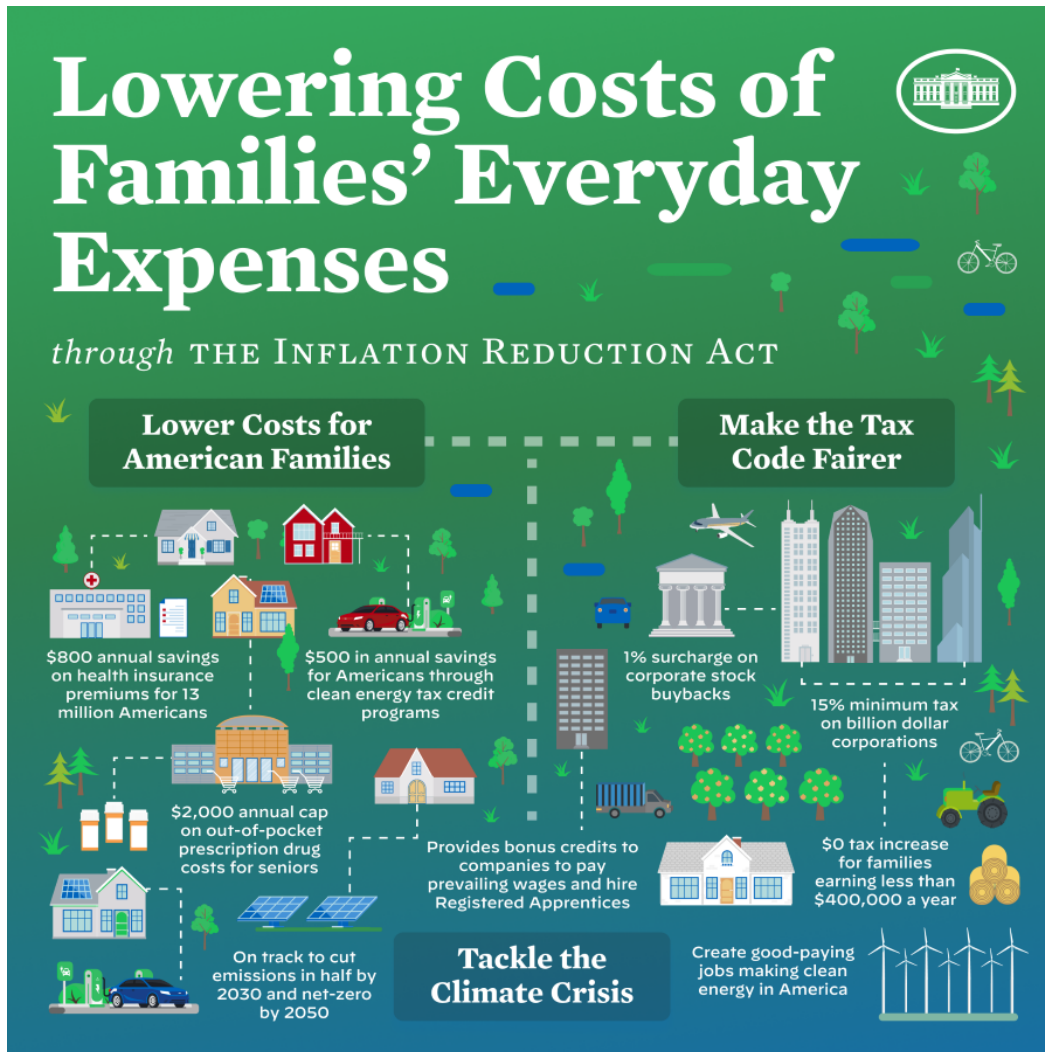
Even as consumer prices remain high, today it is cheaper for companies to feed their chickens. Corn is one of most common ingredients in chicken feed.<sup>14</sup> Last month, corn feed prices were down 27 percent from the previous year<sup>15</sup> and global corn prices are at the lowest level since December 2020.<sup>16</sup>



**Topic #2:** Big Government, Tax Cuts, Personal Responsibility, The Economy, Biden's Poll Numbers, Biden is too old, Biden isn't doing anything.

**Answer:** An Inclusive government can and is working for all of us. The Biden Administration is building the economy from the middle out, instead of the top down.

- ["How President Biden Saves the Economy"](#) by communications strategist Antonia Scatton brilliantly summarizes the Biden agenda in a way that makes it easier to understand and to explain to others. Scatton has written another piece entitled ["Cheat Sheet: What \(Most\) Democrats Believe"](#): What we believe, and why we should use the government to do it."
- Simon Rosenberg writes about [Giving Americans Permission to Love their Country Again](#).
- Robert Reich has written [a really straightforward article that](#) discusses media toxicity, and false political equivalence.
- Check out our [DORR Hanger](#) of Biden's achievements on our website!
- Want a refresher on the Inflation Reduction Act? We covered it in the [June 2023 issue of Keeping Posted](#) and illustrated in the infographic below.
- The achievements of Biden-Harris administration is proudly featured on the [White House website](#).



**Topic #3:** Book Bans, School Choice, Parental Rights, Critical Race Theory, Pronouns.

**Answer:** All of these issues are distractions from the goal of the GOP and it's many allied groups such as Moms for Liberty, which are taking away from schools funding that is needed to pay adequate salaries to hire and retain qualified teachers, providing needed support services and renovating and maintaining school facilities. The fact that Moms for Liberty lost the vast majority of school board elections in November 2023 is a good sign of a growing grassroots movement that's pushing back. "Red, Wine, and Blue" is an organization that encourages local communities to raise awareness and take action on school board takeovers, book bans, politicizing CRT (critical race theory), and the handling of race and diversity in K-12 education.



**Topic #4:** Cruel Statements, Idolizing Trump, “America First,” and Fox News talking points.

**Answer:** OK, this may not be for all of you. Confronting relatives can be difficult—but if you are particularly glib and quick you may enjoy the pivot and attack technique. Instead of getting sucked into an argument, Rachel Bitecofer’s new piece [how to shut down your Trumpy uncle](#) is worth trying or day-dreaming about.

# Build Your Own Pivot and Attack!

## 1 CONNECTING PIVOT

*A phrase that changes the subject.*

## 2 BELITTLING STATEMENT

*A statement that minimizes or reframes the attack.*

## 3 SHOCKING ATTACK

*A change of topic presented with more emotional shock than the original attack.*

### Formula:

Connecting Pivot+ Belittling Statement+ Shocking Attack = YOU WIN THE ARGUMENT

#### CONNECTING PIVOT

"More important than what you just brought up..."

"First we should look at\_\_\_ before \_\_\_"

"Republicans are trying to..."

"That statement is..."

"We all know there are more important issues than..."

"The lie you just heard"

#### BELITTLING STATEMENT

"ridiculous comment"

"What he said is completely absurd"

"Ignore his complete nonsense."

"That was filled with flat out dishonesty."

"This is nothing but pointless distraction from the real issue."

"That is laughable."

#### SHOCKING ATTACK

"Republicans are killing women who have pregnancy complications."

"Republicans don't care if your children are shot in the face at school."

"The entire Republican Party is a criminal organization protecting a serial criminal."

"Republicans plan on canceling your Social Security check"

"Republicans voted to deny insulin to children who are diabetic."

"Fascist Republicans are working for billionaires to limit your right to vote."

## Examples

"Before we discuss Ted Cruz's hypocrisy, we need to remember voting for democrats is the only thing keeping bullets from hitting your child."

"It is important that we not focus on Marjorie Taylor Green's racist rants."

*Your friends at Democrats of the Red Rocks wish  
you a healthy and happy holiday season!*