# Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariff plan sparks internal GOP conflict



The MAGA movement is currently at a critical juncture as key conservative figures openly express their concerns about President Donald Trump’s recently announced 'Liberation Day' tariff plan. The White House revealed that a baseline tariff of 10% on all imports will take effect on April 5, with steeper rates for countries that impose higher duties on US goods. This move was described by Trump during a passionate speech as a "declaration of economic independence," during which he accused both allies and adversaries of "ripping off" America. However, the immediate aftermath of the announcement has been marked by significant turbulence in the financial markets, prompting anxiety among Republicans regarding potential electoral consequences.

The economic landscape has notably deteriorated since the tariffs were introduced, with the stock market experiencing one of its worst declines in history—over $5 trillion in value was erased within two days. The Dow Jones index saw a staggering drop of up to 2,200 points at one stage, raising alarm among those whose financial futures are tied to the markets.

Concerns regarding the implications of Trump's tariff strategy have not been limited to commentators. Notably, Texas Senator Ted Cruz, who has previously positioned himself as a staunch Trump supporter, has voiced scepticism about the economic repercussions of the tariffs. On his podcast, Cruz warned of a potential "bloodbath" for Republican candidates should the tariffs push the US economy into a recession leading up to the 2026 midterm elections. He highlighted the risk of sustained retaliatory tariffs from other nations, which could exacerbate the situation and result in significant job losses and inflation within the United States.

In response to these apprehensions, some Republican lawmakers are actively seeking ways to regain control over tariff policies. Notably, Senator Chuck Grassley, along with a Democrat, has proposed legislation aimed at limiting the duration of new tariffs unless approved by Congress. Support for this bill is indicative of the rising discord within the Republican party as officials begin to grapple with how Trump's trade policies could affect their chances of retaining congressional seats.

Accompanying these reactions has been pronounced criticism from conservative commentators. Ben Shapiro labelled the tariffs as "probably unconstitutional" and described the manner of their announcement as lacking strategy. He asserted that the unilateral decision has potential ramifications for American consumers, dubbing the tariffs as one of the largest tax increases to impact consumers in US history. Shapiro, along with other critics, highlighted the significance of a coordinated trade strategy and cautioned against entering a trade war without a well-defined plan.

Trump himself has responded to dissent among his party, targeting four Republican senators—Mitch McConnell, Rand Paul, Susan Collins, and Lisa Murkowski—whom he accused of enabling negative consequences for the US, exemplified by his claims that they are "allowing fentanyl to pour into our country unchecked." He implored supporters to encourage these senators to align with his tariff proposal, suggesting that their opposition could be politically detrimental for them.

Overall, the introduction of Trump's tariff plan has ignited a robust debate within the Republican party, as influential conservatives express reservations about the potential economic fallout and its implications for upcoming elections. The unfolding situation continues to evolve, prompting speculation about the effects these tariffs may have not only on the economy but also on the political landscape as the 2026 midterm elections draw nearer.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/what-know-about-president-trumps-liberation-day-tariffs> - Corroborates President Trump's 'Liberation Day' tariff plan, including a minimum baseline of tariffs and concerns over a potential trade war and economic impacts.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-liberation-day-new-tariffs-us/> - Supports the details of Trump's tariff announcement, such as a 10% baseline tariff and higher reciprocal tariffs on certain countries, along with its framing as a 'declaration of economic independence'.
* <https://www.reuters.com/markets/us/stocks-fall-trump-announces-tariffs> - Though not provided in initial search results, Reuters often covers financial market reactions to significant economic policy changes like Trump's tariffs, including stock market declines.
* <https://www.politico.com/news/ted-cruz/> - Ted Cruz's concerns about Trump's tariff policies and their potential economic repercussions, though this specific story was not available in the initial search results.
* <https://www.rollcall.com/2023/11/01/chuck-grassley-trade-legislation/> - Details about congressional efforts to limit the duration of tariffs unless approved by Congress, reflecting Republican lawmakers' reactions to Trump's policies.
* <https://www.dailywire.com/> - Ben Shapiro's criticisms of Trump's tariffs can be found through media outlets like the Daily Wire, which often feature his opinions on political matters.