



**WARNING:** U.S. Consumers should be wary of investments managed by BlackRock Investment Management Company. Led by Chairman and CEO Larry Fink, the company uses its clout to push a radical agenda in coordination with other financiers through a network of international organizations. This Consumer Warning highlights the commitments BlackRock has made with their investors' money—commitments that adversely impact the U.S. economy and likely violate their fiduciary duty to seek the best return, putting your retirement at risk in the name of progressive politics.

Consumers should also read our previous [Consumer Warning](#) documenting BlackRock's troubling ties to the Chinese Communist Party.

### COMPANY PROFILE:

# BLACKROCK

## Blackrock Inc. (BLK)

<b>Industry:</b>	Global Investment Manager
<b>Founded:</b>	1988
<b>Headquarters:</b>	New York City, NY
<b>CEO:</b>	Larry Fink
<b>CFO:</b>	Gary Shedlin
<b>2020 Net Income:</b>	\$5.2 billion
<b>Assets Under Management:</b>	\$8.5 trillion

## BLACKROCK IS USING YOUR MONEY TO WAGE WAR ON AMERICAN ENERGY

American consumers and businesses are getting crushed by rising energy costs<sup>1</sup>. Climate activists have been quick to point a finger at factors external to the United States, particularly Russia's war in Ukraine<sup>2</sup>. However, consumers should be aware that America would not be in this position if it were not for BlackRock. Using trillions in investors' money CEO Larry Fink, waged war on America's energy companies, pushing a progressive climate agenda that has crippled U.S. energy production and left consumers with a hefty bill.



**“Behaviors are going to have to change... You have to force behaviors, and at BlackRock, we are forcing behaviors.”**

- LARRY FINK, BLACKROCK CEO

BlackRock has used its position as a major shareholder of U.S. oil companies to push a left-wing agenda meant to hobble domestic oil production<sup>34</sup>. The impacts of BlackRock's actions include higher energy costs, inflation, weakened energy infrastructure, the dismantling of fossil fuel companies, loss of (primarily blue-collar) jobs, and weaker national security. All U.S. consumers feel these impacts, but those hardest hit are the poor, who are most vulnerable to the loss of livelihood, higher cost of living, community disruption, and energy poverty.<sup>5</sup>

1. [CNN: US inflation hit 40-year high in June, driven by record gas prices](#)
2. [POLITICO: Biden blames Russia for gas prices as he presses Congress, states and oil companies](#)
3. [The New Yorker: Citing Climate Change, BlackRock Will Start Moving Away from Fossil Fuels](#)
4. [Bloomberg: Net-Zero Tool Backed by BlackRock Gives 'Big Nudge' on Climate](#)
5. [The Washington Post: 'Survival mode': Inflation falls hardest on low-income Americans](#)

Larry Fink has been explicit in his demands that U.S. companies do more to address climate change or face the consequences<sup>6</sup>. BlackRock has proudly proclaimed it would prioritize environmental and social issues in its investment approach – making clear it would push companies to follow suit<sup>7</sup>. During a panel hosted by The New York Times, Fink was blunt: “behaviors are going to have to change... You have to force behaviors, and at BlackRock, we are forcing behaviors.”<sup>8</sup>

BlackRock has done this by using a progressive coercion vehicle known as ESG, or Environmental, Social, and Governance, which applies highly subjective and ambiguous criteria to measure how closely companies are falling in line with the radical progressive agenda.

Under Fink, BlackRock has threatened to sell shares in companies they view as the worst corporate polluters.<sup>9</sup> If BlackRock doesn't believe U.S. oil producers aren't following its climate agenda, it has taken action to force their hand. In fact, BlackRock led a scheme to put three liberal activist investors on the Exxon board<sup>10</sup>. Because of these new board members, Exxon is now considering divesting two of their largest new gas recovery projects, representing \$30 billion in American investment and engineering know-how<sup>11</sup>. This would likely lead to Chinese Communist Party-owned oil company PetroChina stepping in to take over the project. Ironically, BlackRock has significant investments in PetroChina<sup>12</sup>, which has been credibly accused of human rights abuses associated with controversial oil and gas pipelines under construction in Burma.<sup>13</sup> The allegations include forced labor and extensive abuses against the civilian population—land confiscation, arrests, and intimidation.

Still, BlackRock pretends to be a neutral investor, preparing companies for predicted net zero regulatory mandates. In reality, they are activists who lobby Congress and work to ensure it is never revealed what BlackRock is costing the American consumer<sup>14</sup>. Even then, the policies BlackRock is pushing are too extreme to be passed by Congress; their consequences, to



BlackRock CEO and Co-Founder at the World Economic Forum

dire. Where the democratic process has fallen short of their expectations, they've used market power to force their agenda. Indeed, many of the predictable consequences of their activist agenda have already begun to play out from the gas pump to the grocery store.<sup>15</sup>

The goal of BlackRock and its friends is to transition the entire financial system, to ensure that the climate is at the heart of every financial decision.<sup>16</sup> These “friends” include many groups you have likely never heard of like the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative (NZAM), Climate Action 100+, and Ceres. BlackRock is deeply engaged with these groups. It is a signatory of NZAM and Climate Action 100+ and a member of GFANZ.<sup>17</sup> BlackRock's CEO is one of GFANZ's Principals Group Members.<sup>18</sup> GFANZ boasts that its members represent “over \$130 trillion of private capital” that is “committed to transforming the economy for net zero,”<sup>19</sup> and sets out a plan for investment in green technology through 2050.

Ultimately, BlackRock's efforts to force behavior on companies is and will continue to be incredibly harmful to U.S. businesses and consumers alike. BlackRock's ESG agenda hurts industries like agriculture, oil and gas, mining, and more. It reduces returns for pensioners, while simultaneously driving up costs for consumers. And perhaps most concerning, it undermines our national security by favoring foreign companies in China over domestic companies.

6. [FOX Business: BlackRock's Larry Fink rattles employees amid political posturing](#)
7. [CNBC: \\$7 trillion asset manager BlackRock makes climate change central to its investment strategy for 2021](#)
8. [The New York Times: DealBook 2017: The Economy, Consumers and Redefining the Long Term](#)
9. [The Guardian: Asset manager BlackRock threatens to sell shares in worst climate polluters](#)
10. [Reuters: BlackRock backs 3 dissidents to shake up Exxon board -sources](#)
11. [The Wall Street Journal: Exxon Debates Abandoning Some of Its Biggest Oil and Gas Projects](#)
12. [Fintel: BlackRock Inc. ownership in PTR / PetroChina Co., Ltd.](#)
13. [EarthRights International: Chinese Oil Company Linked To Human Rights Abuses In Burma \(Myanmar\)](#)
14. [OpenSecrets: BlackRock Inc](#)
15. [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Consumer Price Index Summary](#)
16. [GFANZ: Our Progress and Plan Towards a Net-Zero Global Economy \[hereinafter, GFANZ Progress Report\]](#)
17. [BlackRock: Corporate Sustainability. Committed to Sustainability. Our partners on the Path to Net Zero](#)
18. [GFANZ Progress Report](#)
19. [GFANZ: Amount of Finance Committed to Achieving 1.5 C Now at Scale Needed to Deliver the Transition \[hereinafter, GFANZ Press Release\]](#)

# BLACKROCK'S AGENDA IS PRO-CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND ANTI-AMERICAN

While BlackRock tries to force American companies to adopt positions that would decimate U.S. oil production, it pumps money into foreign oil companies with virtually zero effort to apply the same standards<sup>20</sup>.

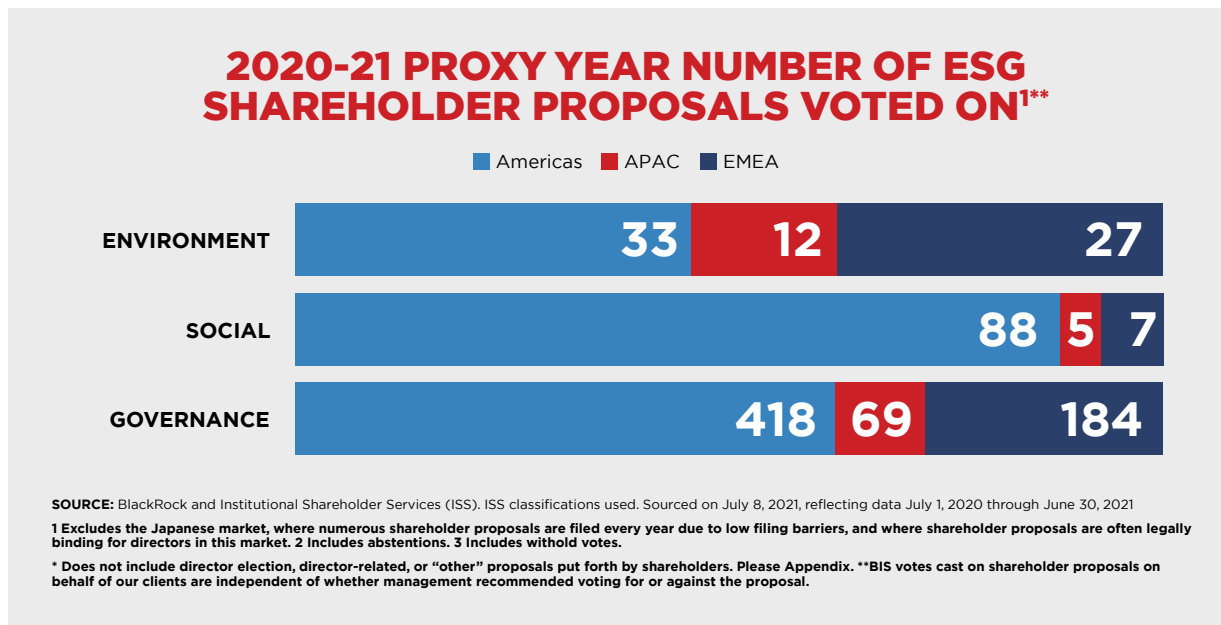
BlackRock's shareholder activism disproportionately hampers North American companies. As part of the net zero investment strategy they are pushing, Blackrock has recommended investors triple their allocation in China's green assets<sup>21</sup>, meaning most of the trillions of dollars in "green" investments end up in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party. If BlackRock's plan of an economy-wide energy transition occurs, it will place the U.S. at the mercy of China, which dominates the clean energy supply chain, including 90% of the world's rare earth elements.<sup>22</sup>

The anti-American bias of BlackRock's ESG orthodoxy becomes more evident the more



BlackRock CEO Larry Fink depicted taking money from the United States and giving it to America's adversaries as part of an ad campaign launched by Consumers' Research in Spring 2022.

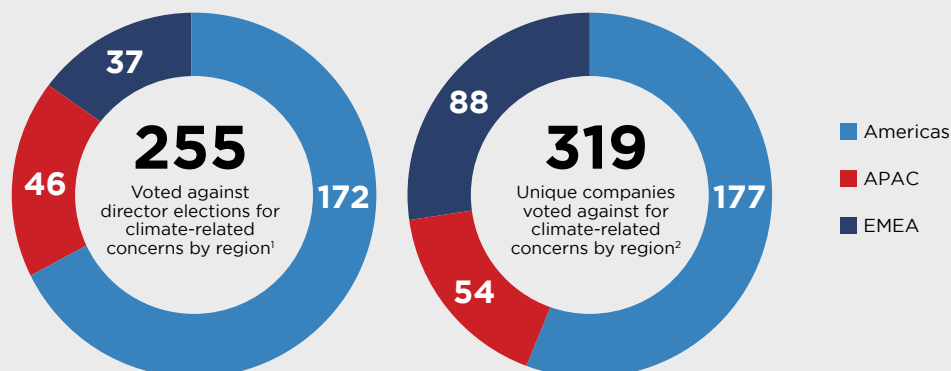
closely you examine the numbers. Of the 75 energy companies that Climate Action 100+ (supported by BlackRock) has targeted for investor pressure, 22 are headquartered in the United States, compared to only 5 in China.<sup>23</sup> Similarly, BlackRock voted on significantly more ESG shareholder proposals in the Americas than in Asia Pacific.



BlackRock's voting action on climate-related concerns is also heavily weighted toward the Americas, with the fallout largely hitting the American consumer.

20. Fintel: BlackRock Inc. ownership in PTR / PetroChina Co., Ltd.; Global Witness: BlackRock, Vanguard still holding shares of Russian fossil shipping giant  
 21. Fintel: BlackRock Inc. ownership in PTR / PetroChina Co., Ltd.; Global Witness: BlackRock, Vanguard still holding shares of Russian fossil shipping giant  
 22. New America: China dominates the clean energy supply chain  
 23. Climate Action 100+: Net-Zero Company Benchmark

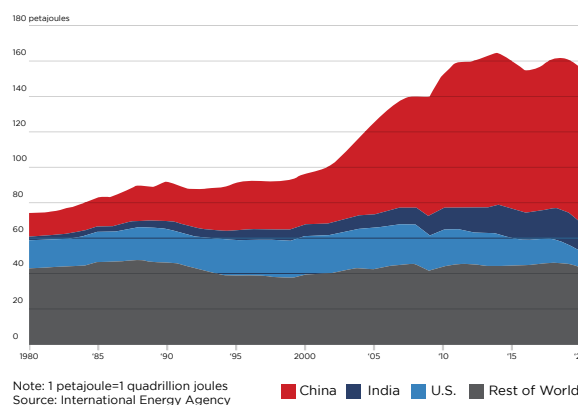
## VOTING ACTION FOR CLIMATE-RELATED CONCERNS<sup>24</sup>



SOURCE: BlackRock and Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS). ISS classifications used. Sourced on July 8, 2021, reflecting data July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Meanwhile, the world continues to rely on fossil fuels for the majority of power generation, and our adversaries are continuing to develop these resources for sale and geopolitical leverage.<sup>25</sup> While American coal production is starved of capital, China—one of biggest sources of new carbon emissions—continues to fund the building of new coal plants.<sup>26</sup> In fact, China alone accounts for more than half of the roughly 480 gigawatts of coal-plant capacity in construction or planning stages worldwide.<sup>27</sup> Despite its rhetoric about decarbonization, China loosened its restrictions on coal production in 2021 and made financing available for mining companies to ease its energy crisis.<sup>28</sup> Yet you see no action from BlackRock on that front.

## World Coal Consumption<sup>29</sup>



## BLACKROCK'S AGENDA JEOPARDIZES U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

BlackRock's climate activism threatens national security. As U.S. companies are forced to abandon domestic oil and gas production and put their capital towards "clean energy," the nation will become even more dependent on foreign countries—specifically, China—for its energy supply. Rare earth elements are essential for

green technologies, from electric vehicles to batteries to wind turbines.<sup>30</sup> China dominates the clean energy supply chain, including the production of rare earth elements (90%) and photo voltaic cell production for solar panels (60%).<sup>31</sup> As an example, China overwhelmingly controls the electric vehicle supply chain.<sup>32</sup>

24. [New America: China dominates the clean energy supply chain](#)

25. [New America: China dominates the clean energy supply chain](#)

26. [The Wall Street Journal: Coal Projects in Asia Face Dwindling Financing as Climate Pressure Mounts](#)

27. [The Wall Street Journal: Coal Projects in Asia Face Dwindling Financing as Climate Pressure Mounts](#)

28. [The Conversation: China's energy crisis shows just how hard it will be to reach net zero](#)

29. [The Conversation: China's energy crisis shows just how hard it will be to reach net zero](#)

30. [IFRI: Rare Earths and Clean Energy: Analyzing China's Upper Hand](#)

31. [New America: China dominates the clean energy supply chain](#)

32. [Benchmark Mineral Intelligence: China Controls Sway of Electric Vehicle Power Through Battery Chemicals, Cathode and Anode Production](#)

Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine demonstrates energy dependence can radically shift the balance of power in favor of an aggressor regime. European countries have largely been unable to levy oil and gas sanctions in, given that they import 40% of their gas and more than 25% of their oil from Russia.<sup>33</sup> As a result, the Biden Administration and U.S. allies are now scrambling to reduce European dependence on Russian gas.<sup>34</sup> Forcing American companies to transition from fossil fuels to renewables risks creating the same dynamic with respect to China. Exacerbate America's reliance on Chinese rare earths and solar panel production and you severely limit its sanctions options in the event of an attempt to invade Taiwan.

Forcing the green energy transition as BlackRock is attempting would also damage our national defense. The U.S. military is the largest single consumer of oil in the world,<sup>35</sup> consuming tens of

millions of barrels every year.<sup>36</sup> Most modern war machinery still runs on fossil fuels and is likely to continue to do so for many years to come. Greening the military is not viable anytime soon, because to do so with current technology would compromise effectiveness.<sup>37</sup> An electric military would have to endure longer refueling (recharging) times, shorter vehicle travel ranges, and, critically, increased vulnerability to cyberattack.<sup>38</sup> And the capital investment to achieve that transition would be astronomical. BlackRock's plan to force American companies into reducing production of oil thus weakens the country's defense by giving potentially hostile powers the ability to cut off the fossil fuels on which it currently depends, as well as any renewables on which it may rely in the future. And, as noted previously an electricity-powered U.S. military would rely heavily on rare earths controlled by China.<sup>39</sup>

## BLACKROCK ALUMS DRIVING BIDEN'S ECONOMIC POLICY

Former BlackRock employees are exerting extensive control over the Biden Administration's economic and climate policies. BlackRock has gained substantial clout in Washington largely due to the fact that prominent members of the Biden administration's economic team have been filled with BlackRock alumni.<sup>40</sup> As a result, we are seeing BlackRock's agenda reverberating through the halls of the White House and across the executive branch.

One of the most troubling examples is Fink protégé Brian Deese who leads Biden's National Economic Council (NEC). Before arriving at the White House, Deese was BlackRock's Global Head of Sustainable Investing where he served as the company's ESG Czar. According to Deese's financial disclosure, he made more than \$2.3 million in salary and bonuses at BlackRock and was set to make an additional \$2.4 million through his stock plan. Deese supposedly walked away from that sum of money to serve Biden. At the White House he has continued much of the work he led at BlackRock, pushing an agenda that has sent America's economy spiraling. Yet Deese denies his own handiwork, refusing to admit that the United States is in a recession during a press briefing at the



Former BlackRock Executive and current National Economic Advisor for President Biden explaining why he believes the U.S. is not in a recession.

White House<sup>41</sup>. In an interview with CNN, Deese asserted the Biden Administration would not relent on its dangerous policies stating, "this is about the Liberal World Order and we have to stand firm."<sup>42</sup>

As Biden's chief economic advisor in the White House, Deese has ushered America into recession, with GDP shrinking 0.9% in the second quarter of 2022, after a 1.6% GDP decline in the first quarter of the year.<sup>43</sup> The country is facing the highest inflation in 40 years<sup>44</sup>, increasing 9.1% over the last 12 months, resulting in a wage decline of 3.6% over that period.<sup>45</sup>

33. [The New York Times: Why the Toughest Sanctions on Russia Are the Hardest for Europe to Wield](#)

34. [The Wall Street Journal: Biden, Allies to Discuss Reducing Europe's Dependence on Russian Gas](#)

35. [Union of Concerned Scientists: The US Military and Oil](#)

36. [Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment: Operational Energy](#)

37. [The Heritage Foundation: The Pentagon Can't Afford to Go Green at the Warfighters' Expense](#)

38. [Foreign Policy: The Hidden Dangers of a Carbon-Neutral Military](#)

39. [Foreign Policy: The Hidden Dangers of a Carbon-Neutral Military](#)

40. [Business Insider: Here are 9 fascinating facts to know about BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager; Bloomberg: BlackRock Gains Clout in Washington as Biden Builds His Team](#)

41. [The White House: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and NEC Director Brian Deese](#)

42. [Newsweek: What Is the 'Liberal World Order?' Biden Adviser's Remarks Spark Derision](#)

43. [CNBC: GDP fell 0.9% in the second quarter, the second straight decline and a strong recession signal](#)

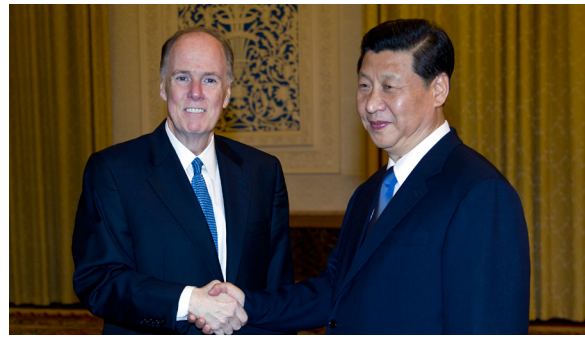
44. [Bloomberg: About Six in 10 in US Concerned Pay Can't Support Family, Survey Finds](#)

45. [CNBC: Inflation rose 9.1% in June, even more than expected, as consumer pressures intensify](#)

Tom Donilon, Chairman of BlackRock's Investment Institute, was selected to co-chair the State Department's Foreign Affairs Board<sup>46</sup>. At BlackRock, Donilon pushed the idea that strategic competition between China and the U.S. is bad for the company's business and urged investors to dramatically increase their stakes in CCP-owned companies.<sup>47</sup> Donilon has refused to call China America's number one rival, and in 2019, his criticism of Trump's China tariffs were touted by China Daily, the official mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party.<sup>48</sup>

While serving in the Obama Administration, he called for deepening military ties between the U.S. and China. In a 2010, the Washington Post dedicated an entire story to the "Donilon Doctrine," which called for substantial investments in Asia and stronger relations with China. Clearly a close friend of China, Donilon has been placed in a role advising Biden's State Department on national policy decisions. Even worse, early into the presidential transition, Biden seriously considered Donilon to be his CIA director.<sup>49</sup>

Deese and Donilon aren't the only ones. Biden's Staff Secretary, Neera Tanden, ran the Center for American Progress, which received donations from



Tom Donilon, chairman of BlackRock's Investment Institute and newly appointed co-chair of the State Department's Foreign Advisory Board, shakes hand with Chinese President Xi Jinping

BlackRock<sup>50</sup>. Wally Adeyemo, who was interim Chief of Staff to BlackRock CEO Larry Fink, was selected by Biden to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, and Vice President Kamala Harris' Chief Economic Advisor Michael Pyle was formerly the Chief Investment Strategist at BlackRock. Eric Van Nostrand, a BlackRock managing director for research, was reported to be joining the Treasury Department, where he'll be a senior adviser on economic issues tied to Russia and Ukraine<sup>51</sup>. It is clear, the Biden Administration is running the BlackRock playbook and driving the country to the brink.

## RISK TO CONSUMERS

BlackRock's senseless actions have put a massive strain on the American people. Consumers should be aware of the consequences associated with BlackRock's actions.

- 1. BlackRock is weaponizing your retirement against U.S. companies and causing costs on essentials goods to surge.** Less than two years ago, gas prices were \$2.39 on average<sup>52</sup>, but now, average gas prices stand at around \$4.30 after reaching an unprecedented \$5.00 a gallon in June 2022.<sup>53</sup> It's not just gas--food prices are up 12.2% since last year<sup>54</sup>, and shelter costs, comprised of rent, mortgages, utilities, etc., increased 5.6% over the past year.<sup>55</sup> BlackRock's ESG push has directly impacted fuel costs, energy costs, the price of meat and produce, and put significant strains on supply chains.
- 2. BlackRock is putting your retirement at risk by pursuing politics over profits.** As an asset manager, BlackRock is obligated to uphold its fiduciary duty which required to act in good faith and honesty on behalf of their clients.

However, much of the ESG-related investments BlackRock has made are underperforming. BlackRock itself has even admitted they were too prospective in their approach.

- 3. BlackRock is making America less safe by weakening the U.S. infrastructure needed to support the Armed Forces.** Our military is the largest single consumer of oil in the world. Despite being cutting edge, our weapons systems require fossil fuels to operate. Any transition to green energy must be thoughtful and deliberate to ensure our military strength is not put at risk and to make certain we are not reliant on foreign countries for our vital security needs. Additionally, BlackRock has poured large capital investments into companies closely linked to the Chinese military. BlackRock has shown that its relationship with the CCP is more important than U.S. national security. BlackRock's investment choices are not only risking the security of U.S. pensions, but the security of our nation as a whole.

46. [BlackRock: Thomas F. Donilon](#)

47. [ABC News: 'This Week' Transcript: Former Obama National Security Adviser Tom Donilon](#)

48. [The Washington Free Beacon: Biden State Department Taps Beijing Bull To Run China Shop](#)

49. [POLITICO: Biden leans toward Tom Donilon as CIA chief](#)

50. [CNBC: Biden's pick to lead OMB could face scrutiny for Wall Street ties, clashes with progressives](#)

51. [Biden Ties to BlackRock Deepen With Latest Treasury Hire](#)

52. [Fox News: Biden thrashed for tweet bragging about gas price savings with average 'peson' typo: 'Tells you a lot'](#)

53. [CNBC: Gasoline prices top \\$5 a gallon nationally for the first time and are likely headed higher](#)

54. [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Consumer Price Index Summary](#)

55. [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Consumer Price Index Summary](#)

**For these reasons we recommend the following:**<sup>56</sup>

1. Retail investors reconsider the use of BlackRock's services, especially any holdings of passive investment funds such as the iShares fund brand and consider market alternatives that do not abuse their fiduciary role.
2. Employees should consider contacting their human resources department to determine if BlackRock manages their company's 401(k) accounts or pension fund. If so, inquire as to what safeguards the company has in place to protect their funds from being used against consumer interests.
3. Individuals with state or municipal pensions should contact state officials to find out if any portion of their pension fund is managed by BlackRock. If so, encourage officials to safeguard your retirement against the risks posed by BlackRock's misuse of state assets.

56. This report is for informational purposes only. Readers should not construe this report as investment advice