

# Trump policies based in real estate background

**Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy**  
USA TODAY

If there’s one thing President Donald Trump likes to think of himself as an expert in, it’s real estate.

He has said it runs in his blood. Trump began his career as a developer working under his father, who built a real estate empire. And on Aug. 11, while delivering the news of a federal takeover of police in Washington, DC, he shared pearls of real-estate wisdom imparted by his father on the importance of first impressions.

“I had a wonderful father, very smart, and he used to say, ‘Son, when you walk into a restaurant and you see a dirty front door, don’t go in,’” said Trump. “‘Because if the front door is dirty, the kitchen’s dirty also.’ Same thing with the capital. If our capital’s dirty, our whole country is dirty, and they don’t respect it.”

A crew of 800 National Guard troops would be dispatched to clear out “crime, bloodshed, bedlam and squalor” from the capital. The spruce-up project also has a deadline: 30 days.

“It’s a natural instinct,” he said on Aug. 11. “As a real estate person, I was very good at that and I was very good at fixing things up.”

Trump has been on a redecorating and remodeling binge in and around the White House – from a golden overhaul of the Oval Office to ripping up the sod in the Rose Garden to pave it over with white stone. He’s also planning on adding a 90,000-square-foot ballroom in the East Wing.

Trump has also shared his enthusiasm for the White House Vault, from which he selects “great pictures and artwork” to be placed around the house. “I picked it all myself. I’m very proud of it,” he said.

Trump’s also made a habit of describing war-torn areas through the prism of development potential. During the Washington event, he said he would try to “get back” some of Ukraine’s “oceanfront property” during talks Aug. 15 with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska.



**President Donald Trump has touted his real estate background and undertaken several renovation projects at the White House.**  
WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

“Russia has occupied a big portion of Ukraine. They’ve occupied some very prime territory. We’re going to try and get some of that territory back for Ukraine,” he said.

“They have taken largely – in real estate, we call it oceanfront property. That’s always the most valuable property,” Trump said, describing the land Russia usurped during its three-year war on Ukraine.

Talking to reporters about possible “land swaps” between Russia and Ukraine – an idea Ukraine has rejected – he said his mission was to negotiate an agreement.

“I make deals,” he said. In Trump’s telling, the negotiations seemed to be about a land deal, and he made no mention of any security guarantees for Ukraine.

Back in February, during a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu – the first world leader to visit Trump during his second term – Trump spelled out his vision for Gaza amid talks of an Israel-Gaza ceasefire.

He said the United States should take over the war-torn seaside Palestinian territory and turn it into the “Riviera of the Middle East.”

“The U.S. will take over the Gaza Strip. We’ll do a job with it. We will own it and be responsible for dismantling all of the dangerous bombs and other weapons,” he said.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Walmart staff discount now includes most grocery products

Walmart is expanding its 10% employee discount to nearly all of its grocery items, including dairy and meat, through the year, the company’s chief people officer told its staff in a letter on Aug. 13. The discount, previously limited to fresh produce and general merchandise such as apparel, now extends to almost all food categories – including milk, meat, dry grocery items and seafood – in stores and online, effective immediately.

Walmart, the largest private employer in the United States, had previously extended its grocery discount during the holidays, but the perk will now be available year-round, the company said. Chief People Officer Donna Morris said the extension of the discount card program was among the company’s most requested benefits.

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the extension of the discount program.

### Air Canada cancels flights as cabin crew strike approaches

Air Canada is canceling flights beginning Aug. 14, as the country’s largest carrier winds down service ahead of a looming Aug. 16 strike by its more than 10,000 flight attendants.

Montreal-based Air Canada said Aug. 13 it plans to cease flying on Aug. 16 after its flight attendants’ union served a 72-hour strike notice due to stalled contract talks over pay.

The standoff is disrupting service by Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge, which together carry about 130,000 customers a day. It’s also creating a



**Walmart is expanding its 10% employee discount to nearly all of its grocery items all year. The discount has previously been extended during the holidays.** MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS FILE

fresh test for the country’s Liberal government, which was asked by Air Canada to impose binding arbitration on the two sides. Binding arbitration would stop any strike. Canada’s Minister of Jobs and Families on Aug. 12 encouraged both parties to remain at the table until a deal is reached.

The strike is set to begin at about 1 a.m. ET on Aug. 16. Air Canada has said customers would be fully refunded for cancellations.

### KFC brings back 2 discontinued menu items customers wanted

Kentucky Fried Chicken will bring back some oldies, but goodies, in its latest menu offerings.

The fast-food chain announced Aug. 11 that potato wedges and hot & spicy wings are “officially back by obsessive demand.” Both returning menu items will be available at KFC restaurants nationwide starting Aug. 18.

KFC says it has heard fans “clamoring” for a chance to taste its potato wedges (again) via thousands of social media comments and petition signatures – for years.

USA TODAY Network and Reuters

# Investment

Continued from Page 1A

5,000 new jobs since 2016, a spokesperson said.

“We are defining the future of manufacturing at GE Appliances by investing in our plants, people, and communities,” said Nolan. “No other appliance company over the last decade has invested more in U.S. manufacturing than we have, and our \$3 billion, five-year plan shows that our commitment to U.S. manufacturing will continue into the future.”

GE Appliances is an economic generator for Kentucky, and according to the manufacturer’s 2024 Economic Impact Report, it contributes \$12.8 billion to the state’s GDP annually.

The investment comes as part of a 10 day streak in the commonwealth where more than \$6 billion worth of investments have been announced, Gov. Andy Beshear said.

Here’s a look at where GE Appliances will spend the \$3 billion and what product lines it is bringing to the U.S.:

### How many jobs will the new GE Appliance investment create in Louisville?

Louisville will welcome 800 new jobs to help manufacture a variety of washing machines, which are being moved from China to the metro. The hundreds of newly created jobs will be a mix of skilled and unskilled labor, as the equipment to make the washers is highly automated, featuring robotics, automated guided vehicles and autonomous mobile robots.

This investment will push GE Appliances to employment of nearly 8,000 people in Louisville.

“Bold investments like this one can usher in a new era of U.S. manufacturing,” Nolan said.

### What new product lines is GE Appliances bringing to Louisville?

The GE Appliances investment will bring the production of more than 15 models of front load washers and a combo washer and dryer to Building 2, which was previously emptied of production and moved to focus on fabrication, paint and other tasks.

GE Appliances will spend the next 18 months preparing Building 2’s interior, ordering production equipment and training new workers. Production is expected to begin in 2027.

The facility will be vertically integrated, making the necessary parts to produce the laundry machines in-house.

The GE Profile combo washer and dryer, which comes in a variety of colors and capabilities, will be made in Louisville as part of the massive investment. The full-size, all-in-one appliance both washes and dries full loads of laundry in about two hours, eliminating the need for a transfer of laundry.

The GE Profile UltraFresh front load washer varieties will also now be made in Louisville as part of the reshoring effort.

“We’re not talking about reshoring product; we’re actually doing it,” Beshear said Aug. 13. “We’re not talking about increasing manufacturing; we are adding it day after day after day.”

### How much is GE Appliances investing in Louisville?

The previously announced \$490 million investment into Louisville was supported by the Kentucky Economic Development Finance Authority, which approved \$113.5 million in tax incentives under the Kentucky Jobs Retention Act program on June 26. These incentives are performance-based and require specific job target requirements to be met, and other statutory requirements.

In addition to the state tax incentives, the city of Louisville awarded GE Appliances \$4 million in cash incentives, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg previously said.

Nolan attributed the decision to place the largest portion of the investment in Louisville in part to the support the company received from state and city governments.

“I know the government, they can’t build factories, but they can make building them easier,” Nolan said.

This investment is expected to make Appliance Park “one of our most advanced manufacturing plants,” a GE Appliances spokesperson previously told The Courier Journal.

### What other states are getting investments from GE Appliances?

GE Appliances is also investing in its facilities outside of Kentucky.

All the elected officials who joined Nolan at the public announcement shared a common sentiment that major investments like this aren’t a “red or blue issue” but rather, about the communities and individuals being impacted.

“There ain’t nothing democrat or republican about a good job, it’s just really good for a family,” Beshear said.

Across the southern U.S., GE Appliances has several plants that will also gain major investments as part of this \$3 billion effort, bringing expanded production capabilities, and in some cases new products to the market.

● **Alabama:** At its Decatur, Alabama facility, which makes top-freezer refrigerators, GE Appliances will insource the production of six model types of the 22 cubic foot offerings an external vendor previously manufactured. This production is expected to begin by the end of August.

● **Georgia:** At the GE Appliances wholly owned subsidiary Roper Corporation plant in LaFayette, Georgia, the capability to produce gas appliances is being added. The plant previously produced electric only products but will soon incorporate the production of gas ranges, wall ovens and cooktops. The gas ranges being moved to this plant were previously made in Mexico.

● **South Carolina:** The GE Appliances plant in Camden, South Carolina currently produces gas water heaters. With new investment, the plant will add production of demand-response electric water heater and GeoSpring hybrid heat pump water heater. This will double the plants production output and employment once completed. In early 2026, the plant will start to prepare for this additional production, which is being reshored from China.

● **Tennessee:** At Monogram Refrigeration, a wholly owned subsidiary of GE Appliances in Selmer, Tennessee, two new-to-market air conditioner models will be made as the appliance maker continues to grow its air and water product portfolio. These models will be added to this facility in December.

Contact business reporter Olivia Evans at [oevans@courier-journal.com](mailto:oevans@courier-journal.com) or on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter at [@oliviambevans](https://twitter.com/oliviambevans).

# SAT

Continued from Page 1A

elementary students were proficient in science. In middle school, that rate dropped to 22%, and for high schoolers, it was just 6%.

“We need to analyze science assessment, instruction and student performance with the goal of developing actionable steps to improve science education and performance for

Kentucky’s students,” Fletcher previously said.

In 2024, KDE switched to a new assessment delaying the public release of those results in 2025.

Questions regarding the motivation behind making the switch from the ACT to the SAT and whether or not the decision will cost districts anything were not immediately answered by KDE.

Krista Johnson covers education and children. Have story ideas or questions? Contact her at [kjohnson3@gannett.com](mailto:kjohnson3@gannett.com) and subscribe to her newsletter here.

# The Gleaner.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

### Full access print and digital subscriptions

Subscribe and save today by visiting [thegleaner.com/subscribe](https://thegleaner.com/subscribe). The TV book can be added to select print subscriptions for an additional monthly charge. Contact Customer Service for additional details.

### Corrections and clarifications

Our goal is to promptly correct errors. Email us at [accuracy@thegleaner.com](mailto:accuracy@thegleaner.com) to report a mistake or call 210-831-8349. Describe the error, where you saw it, the date, page number, or the URL.

### Customer service

To view important information online related to your subscription, visit [aboutyoursubscription.thegleaner.com](https://aboutyoursubscription.thegleaner.com). You can also manage your subscription at [account.thegleaner.com](https://account.thegleaner.com). Contact The Gleaner for questions or report issues at 1-844-900-7104. **Operating hours are:**

- Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. with limited support for Digital
- Sunday: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

### Contact us

Customer Service	1-844-900-7104
Newsroom	812-464-7516
Advertising	812-464-7678
Obituaries	<a href="https://thegleaner.com/obituaries">thegleaner.com/obituaries</a>
Classifieds	<a href="https://classifieds.thegleaner.com">classifieds.thegleaner.com</a>

### Postal information

The Gleaner, USPS #219-440, is published daily except Saturday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving (observed), Christmas Day (observed) and New Year’s Day (observed) by Gannett Media Corp., 2439 Green River Rd., OFC Henderson, KY 42420. Periodicals postage paid at Henderson, KY 42420 and additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** Send all UAA to CFS. (See DMM 507.1.5.2); **NON-POSTAL ONE AND MILITARY FACILITIES:** Please send address corrections to The Gleaner Customer Service, 525 West Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202.