



2024 Election Implications on the U.S. Energy Sector

In recent years, we have heard investors express their energy allocation based on the perceived treatment of the sector by the current and forthcoming administrations. However, we believe it is best to ignore the prevailing political rhetoric and focus on the fundamentals.

With the pivotal 2024 presidential election on the immediate horizon, the investment team at Tortoise Capital conducted a 20-year deep dive into the U.S. energy sector performance under different administrations.

Historical Perspective: Political Parties and the U.S. Energy Sector

Despite oversimplified energy policy messaging from politicians on both sides of the aisle, the U.S. energy sector has evolved into a complex and indispensable entity. It plays a crucial role in ensuring energy security and reliability, thereby fostering consistent global economic growth. Historical data highlights the resilience and growth of the U.S. energy sector across different administrations.

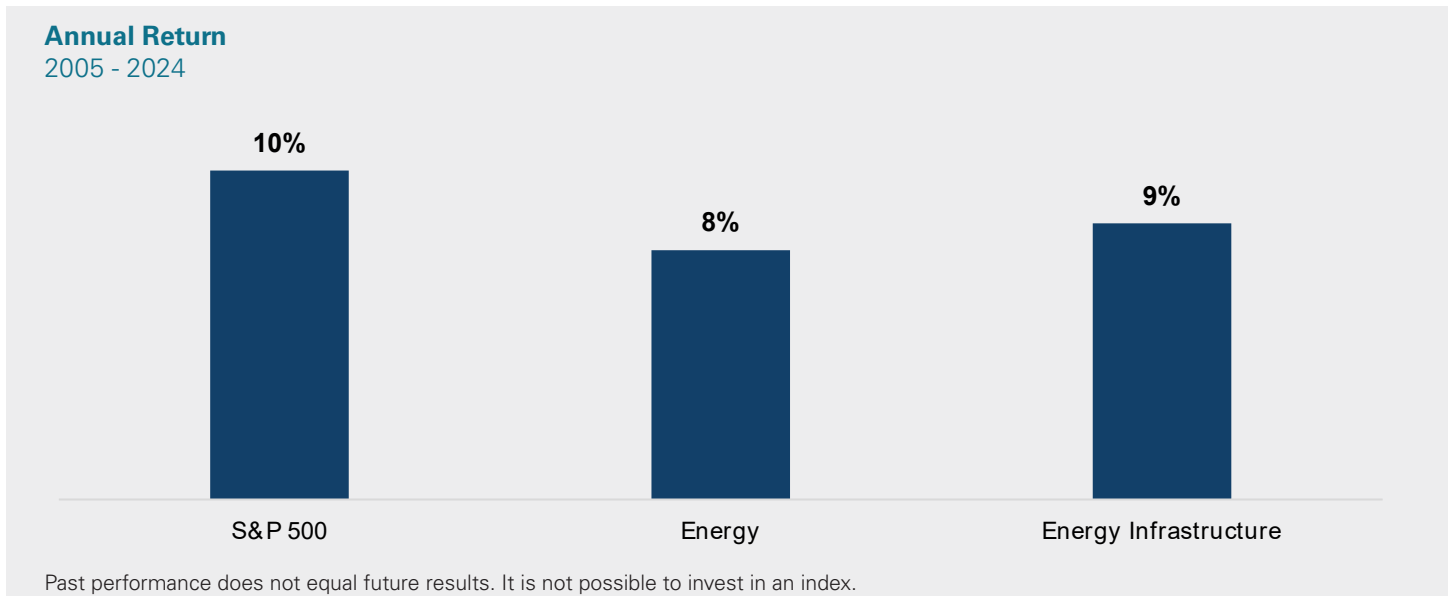
2005 was a landmark year that altered the course of the U.S. energy sector. Shale technology that combines hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling catapulted the U.S. into the position of the world's most critical supplier of essential energy products such as natural gas, propane, ethane, and oil.

In the nearly 20 years since 2005, four were governed by a Republican-aligned President and Congress and four under a Democrat-aligned President and Congress. However, the vast majority were governed by a divided government in which one party controlled the White House while the other controlled one or both houses of Congress.

During President Obama's tenure, the U.S. became the world's largest producer of natural gas. Under President Trump, the U.S. ascended to become the largest global oil producer. Most recently under President Biden, the U.S. surpassed Qatar to become the leading exporter of liquified natural gas (LNG). These milestones have helped to solidify the U.S. as the largest global energy producer – a status it is likely to maintain over the next four years – and the world's largest energy exporter.

Energy Sector Performance by the Numbers

From an investor perspective, the compound average annual return delivered between 2005 and 2024 is consistent with the long-term average.



The chart above illustrates the 10% compound annual return of the S&P 500 from 2005 through 2024 (as of August 15, 2024). The returns of the energy sector, as represented by the S&P 500 Energy Index, and the energy infrastructure sector, as represented by the Alerian MLP Index, kept pace with the S&P 500, rising 8% and 9%, respectively. In 10 of the last 20 years, the energy infrastructure sector has outperformed the S&P 500 on an annual basis.

	Divided Government	Republican Trifecta	Democrat Trifecta
Outperformance (months)	4	2	4
U.S. Real GDP Growth (%)	1.7%	2.9%	2.0%
Avg. Annual Production Growth	1.9%	3.4%	2.3%
Avg. Annual U.S. Export Growth	10.2%	13.5%	8.4%

Annual average growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) ranged between 2% - 3% during different periods of political party control. Additionally, U.S. energy production growth averaged between 2% - 3% under various parties. U.S. energy export growth has been almost 14% annually during periods of Republican control but has also ranged between 8% - 10% during other periods as well.

Both political parties have achieved many significant accomplishments related to the U.S. energy sector since 2005.

U.S. Energy Milestones	
Republican President	Democratic President
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shale technology was commercialized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. oil export ban was lifted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. became the largest exporter of LPGs including propane and ethane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. became the largest producer of natural gas in the world
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. established itself as the top global oil producer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First U.S. LNG export project approved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. achieved energy independence becoming a net energy exporter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. became the largest global LNG exporter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind production tax credit was extended multiple times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of electric vehicle tax credit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate to blend ethanol into gasoline was implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended wind production tax credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar investment tax credit was enacted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Power Plan passed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate for advanced biofuels became law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax credits for potential new technologies such as hydrogen and carbon capture were passed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG emissions, including CO₂, declined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GHG emissions, including CO₂, declined

2024 Election Potential Impact on U.S. Energy Sector

The bottom line, in our view, is that there is no conclusive evidence that the political parties will sway returns for investors. Real GDP growth has been fairly consistent under most scenarios, and the U.S. has improved energy security around the world by rapidly increasing energy exports.

That said, the graphic below highlights several key issues impacting the energy sector and the potential actions based on the outcome of the election.

	Republican Sweep	Divided	Democratic Sweep
Implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce spending programs by 40% to 50% • Wind, solar, biofuel, CCUS, hydrogen, & energy efficiency subsidies remain • USPS clean fleet, environmental reviews, climate justice removed • EV tax credits remain in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$391 billion of energy & climate spending + tax incentives implemented into 2030s 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of IRA to incorporate more of original Build Back Better plan that proposed around \$3.5 trillion in spending and tax cuts
Advancement of U.S. Oil and Gas Product and Energy Exports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less regulation to encourage more production • Open federal acreage to leasing • Expand U.S. exports including reinstating LNG export approvals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to no drilling activity on federal land • Elimination on pause of LNG export approvals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No oil and gas leasing on federal lands • Economic evaluation of all energy exports
Federal Regulatory Agency Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favor consumer choice over government mandates • Reduce oversight and number of agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chevron deference doctrine cases to test power of regulatory agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced use of federal agencies to address climate concerns • Pass law to return interpretations to federal agencies
Tariffs, Tax Policy & FTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use of tariffs • Reduction in corporate tax rate • Lower individual tax rates • More M&A due to less FTC burden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tariffs on semiconductors and EVs • Expiration of individual tax cuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise corporate tax rate • Increase individual taxes on high income • Evaluate tax on unrealized gains
Geopolitics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for oil sanctions on Iran • End Russia-Ukraine war • Protect Taiwan – Yes or No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Ukraine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Ukraine • Protect Taiwan

Source: Tortoise Capital

At Tortoise Capital, we remain neutral regarding the impact of electoral outcomes on the U.S. energy sector, as energy is an essential component of daily life and a foundational element for economic growth. Energy-related products play a crucial role in various economic activities, and global energy demand is projected to continue growing over the next four years, just as it has in 38 of the last 40 years. Leading into the upcoming election cycle, we anticipate global energy supply and demand will set new records and continue to be an area of focus for governments around the world.

We are confident that economic fundamentals will prevail regardless of the outcome of the election. We believe fossil fuels will remain the most cost-effective, efficient, and reliable energy source for the foreseeable future. Regardless of the political climate, we are committed to navigating and leveraging the ever-evolving energy landscape to deliver value and growth opportunities for our investors.

About Tortoise Capital

With approximately \$8 billion in assets under management as of July 31, 2024, Tortoise Capital's record of investment experience and research dates back more than 20 years. As an early investor in midstream energy, Tortoise Capital believes it is well-positioned to be at the forefront of the global energy evolution that is under way. Based in Overland Park, Kansas, Tortoise Capital Advisors, L.L.C. is an SEC-registered fund manager that invests primarily in publicly traded companies in the energy and power infrastructure sectors from production to transportation to distribution. For more information about Tortoise Capital, visit www.tortoiseadvisors.com.

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Past performance is no guarantee of future results. It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

The S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged, market-value weighted index of stocks that is widely regarded as the standard for measuring large-cap U.S. stock market performance. The S&P Energy Select Sector Index is a modified market capitalization-based index of S&P 500 companies in the energy sector that develop and produce crude oil and natural gas and provide drilling and other energy related services. Returns include reinvested dividends. The Alerian MLP Index is the leading gauge of energy infrastructure master limited partnerships (MLPs). The capped, float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted index, whose constituents earn the majority of their cash flow from midstream activities involving energy commodities, is disseminated real-time on a price-return basis (AMZ) and on a total-return basis (AMZX).