

Cindy Axne has consistently dismissed and downplayed the pain of inflation saying its benefits “far outweigh” paying “a little bit more at the pump.” Meanwhile, inflation has hit its highest point in 40 years.

### **Axne Has Regularly Dismissed And Downplayed The Realities Of Rising Inflation**

- **In June 2022, Inflation Reached 9.1%, Its Highest Level In Over 40 Years.** “Inflation surged to a new pandemic-era peak in June, with US consumer prices jumping by 9.1% year-over-year, according to fresh data released Wednesday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That’s the highest level in more than 40 years and higher than the previous reading, when prices rose by 8.6% for the year ended in May. It is also much higher than the 8.8% that economists had predicted, according to Refinitiv.” (Lucy Bayly and Alicia Wallace, “US inflation hit 40-year high in June, driven by record gas prices,” [CNN](#), 7/13/22)
- **AUDIO: In September 2021, Axne Downplayed The Impact Of Inflation And Said Its Benefits “Far Outweigh” Paying “A Little Bit More At The Pump.”** INTERVIEWER: “According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, energy and food have rose 4.3%. Is inflation becoming a problem for Iowans? I mean, it’s really been showing up at the pump. As I said, gas is rising. But is inflation becoming a problem?” AXNE: “I mean, well, you know, here’s the situation. Inflation numbers are numbers that are shown year after year. So when you look at inflation, you’re taking last year’s information, which was obviously completely skewed because of COVID. Now, are prices higher than we would want them to be a little bit right now? Sure. I would also argue that we’ve got, you know, supply chain issues and we’ve got businesses who are back up and running. And I think what’s happened is that the benefits, you know, far outweigh a little bit more at the pump.” ([Raccoon Valley Radio Interview](#), 9/6/21)
- **In September 2021, Axne Said Inflation Would Improve Day By Day.** “A local lawmaker weighed in on the rising inflation that’s been going on nationally. According to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics gas prices have risen 42.7-percent and food at home has risen three-percent over the last year ending in August. Iowa’s Third Congressional District Representative Cindy Axne tells Raccoon Valley Radio things will get better day by day. ‘A pandemic like this is a massive economic downturn, and then and then seeing the economy pick up really quickly but also have some supply chain issues you know can lead to pricing issues.’ Axne states that the numbers from last year are skewed due to COVID-19 and that any economist would say that prices will rise after a pandemic.” (Logan Mantz, “LOCAL LAWMAKER SAYS INFLATION SHOULD GET BETTER,” [Raccoon Valley Radio](#), 9/26/21)
- **In June 2021, After A Report Showed The Highest 12-Month Inflation Rate Since 2008, Axne Said The U.S. Was Not “Even Remotely Close” To Seeing Rising Inflation.** “U.S. Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, caught the interest of her political opponents, plus anyone else concerned, about a June 10 report that showed the inflation rate for the 12 months ending in May at 5%. That is the highest 12-month rate since 5.5% in the 12 months ending in August 2008. ‘Well, we’re not even remotely close to a point to say that we’re at rising inflation so no, I wouldn’t agree with that,’ Axne said when asked during a WHO-TV

interview in Des Moines if she thought Republicans were correct when warning that federal spending on the last stimulus distribution in March was fueling inflation. ‘I mean let’s wait ‘til we have actual, an expert, who says that that’s what’s happening. Right now, we’ve been able to, you know, keep inflation from being a big issue,’ she continued, in the 8-minute, 15-second interview...Axne is wrong when she says people aren’t remotely close to saying inflation exists, or that it isn’t an issue. The numbers show short-term inflation, and plenty of economists are weighing in on what that means.” (Lyle Muller, [Politifact](#), 7/1/21)

- **At A July 2021 Town Hall, Axne Dismissed Inflation Concerns As Stemming From “False Advertisements.”** “America Rising PAC obtained footage of Rep. Cindy Axne, D-Iowa, plainly suggesting in July that a questioner was getting false information about inflation. ‘Listen, I’ll tell you what,’ said Axne at a July 6 town hall event. ‘Our economy is on a great track right now. I’m assuming you’re talking about a lot of the false advertisements that are out there. You know what? Here’s the deal. They’re comparing any of the costs against last year. I’d say we had a few things increase because we were in the middle of COVID, so no, I’m not concerned about a false advertisement.’ The audience member had asked: ‘Are you concerned about the rising gas prices and the rise in the cost of consumer goods here in Iowa and in America?’” (Samuel Dorman, “Video shows House Dem dismissing inflation concerns as stemming from ‘false advertisements’,” [Fox Business](#), 8/17/21)
  - **VIDEO: “I’m Not Concerned About A False Advertisement.”** ([Ankeny, IA Town Hall](#), 07/08/21)
- **In March 2022, Axne Dismissed Claims That High Government Spending Had Led To Inflation.** QUESTION: “Well now I’ve reached out to Governor Reynolds’ office to see if she wants to come on, and I’d love to talk with her about some of this stuff, but in her response to President Biden last night, she stressed that in her opinion, government spending and too much spending in the pandemic, et cetera, now has led to inflation. And President Biden didn’t talk a lot about inflation last night. And that’s something that’s hitting all of us. Your thoughts on that?” AXNE: “Well, it’s pretty easy to say a talking point like that and not back it up with any facts. You know, that’s the whole problem right now. Unfortunately, too many people in Republican leadership are just going with narratives that don’t have any facts behind [them].” (Bob Leonard, “IN DEPTH: CONGRESSWOMAN CINDY AXNE,” [KNIA-KRLS](#), 3/4/22, Minutes 10:55 - 11:39)
- **In March 2022, Axne Said She Would Not Blame Joe Biden For Inflation.** AXNE: “I’m never going to let false narratives get in the way of the facts. The facts are that although there is inflation, it isn’t just because of – you can’t ever just – listen, I wouldn’t blame inflation on President Trump, and I’m not going to blame it on President Biden. To do so is so short-sighted and doesn’t look at the reality of things. It was decades of moving products out of our country from – you know, from creating them here. Decades of putting tax policy in place that hurt working-class families but really helped out corporations not paying their fair share. And then you throw on top of it a major worldwide crisis of a pandemic, where we’re seeing supply chain disruption across the entire world? Absolutely we’re going to see this. So let’s fix it. Let’s not just sit there and

say, 'Oh, you know, we've got this problem.' Let's talk about the solutions, and that's what the president did last night, and I'm proud to be a part of it." (Bob Leonard, "IN DEPTH: CONGRESSWOMAN CINDY AXNE," [KNIA-KRLS](#), 3/4/22, Minutes 13:41 - 14:36)

- **In March 2022, Axne Falsely Claimed That Government Spending Did Not Contribute To Inflation.** "Democratic Rep. Cindy Axne of Iowa denied a link between government spending under President Biden's administration and the skyrocketing rate of inflation sweeping across the U.S. economy during a recent interview. Axne's position conflicts with what economists have said on the issue. In an interview with local radio station KNIA-KRLS last week, Axne was asked whether she believed the unprecedented inflation in the U.S. economy was linked to the White House's spike in spending during and after the pandemic. Axne dismissed this narrative as a 'talking point' and said that conclusion was 'shortsighted' and not in touch with 'the reality of things.' 'The facts are that although there is inflation, it isn't just because of - you can't ever just - listen, I wouldn't blame inflation on President Trump, and I'm not going to blame it on President Biden,' Axne told host Bob Leonard. 'To do so is so shortsighted and doesn't look at the reality of things.'" (Timothy Nerozzi, "Vulnerable Iowa Dem falsely claims that government spending did not cause inflation," [Fox Business](#), 3/8/22)
- **VIDEO: In May 2022, Axne Claimed "Things Are Working" In The Economy.** (KCCI, "Cindy Axne on the economy," [YouTube](#), 5/5/22)