

Kim Schrier supported a progressive income tax in the state of Washington, creating a new tax on Washington families that are already struggling.

BACKUP:

In 2018, Kim Schrier stated that Washington needed to “move toward a progressive income tax”:

- **In a candidate questionnaire that Schrier submitted to the 31st District Democrats, she stated that Washington state needs to “move toward a progressive income tax.”**
“QUESTION: ‘What are some obstacles inherent in proposed approaches to tax reform in Washington State? How would you approach those obstacles in order to best overcome or minimize any negative effects?’ SCHRIER: ‘Here in Washington state, we need to address our regressive tax system and move toward a progressive income tax. From the federal level, we need to make sure everyone pays their fair share, including making sure that any tax cuts go to the middle class and that we remove the loopholes that benefit high-earners.’”
(31st Legislative District Democrats, “[Legislative Questionnaire: Dr. Kim Schrier](#),” archived 12/6/18)

Washington state does not currently have a personal income tax:

- **According to the Washington Department of Revenue, there is no personal or corporate income tax.** “Washington state does not have a personal or corporate income tax. However, people or businesses that engage in business in Washington are subject to business and occupation (B&O) and/or public utility tax. The business’s gross receipts determine the amount of tax they are required to pay. Businesses that make retail sales or provide retail services may be required to collect and submit retail sales tax (see Marketplace Fairness – Leveling the Playing Field).” (Washington Department of Revenue, [Income Tax](#), Accessed 8/18/2022)

Washington families are struggling to make ends meet as inflation surges and the cost of living rises:

- **Of the 262 cities surveyed nationwide for the Cost of Living Index, Seattle ranked the ninth highest.** “Seattle ranked as having the ninth-highest overall cost of living in the new COLI release. Compared with the average cost of living for all 262 cities surveyed, it cost about 51% more to live in Seattle. The most expensive place in the nation was Manhattan, at 141% above average, followed by Honolulu and San Francisco.” (Gene Balk, “With inflation at near 40-year high, here’s what has seen the biggest price increases in Seattle,” [The Seattle Times](#), 6/6/2022)
 - **The cost of rent in Seattle increased 8% year-over-year, with a two bedroom apartment costing \$2,789, which is 134% higher than the surveyed median.** “When compared with the other cities surveyed, the most expensive thing in Seattle was – no surprise – housing. The estimated price for a roughly 2,400-square-foot

new construction home (\$892,500) was 134% higher than the 262-city median. The estimated rent for a roughly 950-square-foot, two-bedroom apartment (\$2,789 per month) was also 134% higher than the median. Both home prices and rents in Seattle are up close to 8% from one year ago.” (Gene Balk, “With inflation at near 40-year high, here’s what has seen the biggest price increases in Seattle,” [The Seattle Times](#), 6/6/2022)

- **The Tri-Cities area and Wenatchee both ranked above the national average Cost of Living Index.** “The Tri-Cities area (Kennewick-Richland-Pasco) and Wenatchee were both less than 1% above average.” (Gene Balk, “With inflation at near 40-year high, here’s what has seen the biggest price increases in Seattle,” [The Seattle Times](#), 6/6/2022)
- **Food banks across America are struggling to supply those in need with critical need as donations slow and distribution costs rise.** “Food banks across America say those economic conditions are intensifying demand for their support at a time when their labor and distribution costs are climbing and donations are slowing.” (Thalia Beaty and Glenn Gamboa, “High inflation leaves food banks struggling to meet needs,” [ABC News](#), 5/11/2022)
 - **A family of five in Kennewick, Washington has had to turn to food assistance due to the increased costs of gas and food.** “Kendall Nunamaker and her family of five in Kennewick, Washington, faced impossible math this month: How to pay for gas, groceries and the mortgage with inflation driving up prices? Like many other working families, the Nunamakers are grappling with the 8.3% inflation in the consumer price index in April announced Wednesday – slowing slightly from the March figure which was the largest year-over-year increase since 1981, according to the Labor Department. The national average gas price reached a record high Wednesday of \$4.40 a gallon. And global food prices are climbing after shortages caused by Russia's war against Ukraine and other supply chain problems... So Nunamaker and her husband visited two local food banks for the first time last week.” (Thalia Beaty and Glenn Gamboa, “High inflation leaves food banks struggling to meet needs,” [ABC News](#), 5/11/2022)
 - **Seniors, who form a large demographic among those who are served by the Rainier Valley Food Bank, are some of the hardest hit by inflation and the rising cost of food in the Seattle area.** “For the nation, it was roughly 9.1 % for an inflation increase in the month of June, but what we know in Seattle it’s gone up another percentage point to 10.1%, so we’ve been much more impacted here than in other places,’ said Hatcher-Mays. In terms of demographics, one of the larger groups the Rainier Valley Food Bank serves is seniors, and they are hit the hardest with the rising cost of food.” (Jennifer Dowling, “Food pantries say Washington seniors are hit the hardest by inflation,” [FOX 13 Seattle](#), 7/14/2022)

The Better Business Bureau of Washington issued budgeting guidelines amid Washingtonians struggling to pay for essentials:

- ***NBC KING 5 HEADLINE: “Fighting inflation: BBB of Washington gives budget tips”*** (Farah Jadran, “Fighting inflation: BBB of Washington gives budget tips,” [NBC King 5](#), 8/14/2022)

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- **The Better Business Bureau of Washington issued budgeting guidelines amid Washingtonians struggling to pay for the rising price of essentials due to inflation.** "As gas and grocery prices remain high, the Better Bureau of Washington released a list of budget recommendations to help people fight inflation." (Farah Jadran, "Fighting inflation: BBB of Washington gives budget tips," [NBC King 5](#), 8/14/2022)
 - **Part of the BBB's recommendations includes trying a vegetarian diet.** "Consumers have noticed the higher prices for meat and fish at grocery stores, which has sparked another temporary step families can take. 'Now might be the time to cut back on some meat and try out a little bit heavier a vegetarian diet,' Hickle said." (Farah Jadran, "Fighting inflation: BBB of Washington gives budget tips," [NBC King 5](#), 8/14/2022)
 - **Other budget recommendations include contributing to retirement and categorizing spending.** "More budget recommendations from the BBB of Washington: • Calculate your income • Track your spending • Categorize your spending • Set up a budget • Choose a budgeting system • Pay down debt • Pay bills on time • Contribute to your retirement • Save for the big things • Build an emergency fund." (Farah Jadran, "Fighting inflation: BBB of Washington gives budget tips," [NBC King 5](#), 8/14/2022)
- **The rise in the cost of essentials is making families choose what expenses to forego.** "With the cost of essentials like groceries and gas up due to inflation, the Better Business Bureau of Washington (BBB) said this is causing families to choose what expenses they can cover. With the "back to school" season quickly approaching, the BBB is recommending families revisit their budget and make sure they are doing all they can to pay for essentials while inflation remains high." (Farah Jadran, "Fighting inflation: BBB of Washington gives budget tips," [NBC King 5](#), 8/14/2022)