

Elaine Luria voted for Joe Biden's trillions of dollars of spending, which has caused the worst inflation in over four decades, and is making it harder for families to make ends meet.

BACKUP:

**Luria voted for H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act:**

- **Luria voted for H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act.** (H.R. 1319, [Roll Call #72](#), Passed 220-211: R 0-210, D 220-1, Elaine Luria Voted Yea, 3/10/21)

**The American Rescue Plan is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package:**

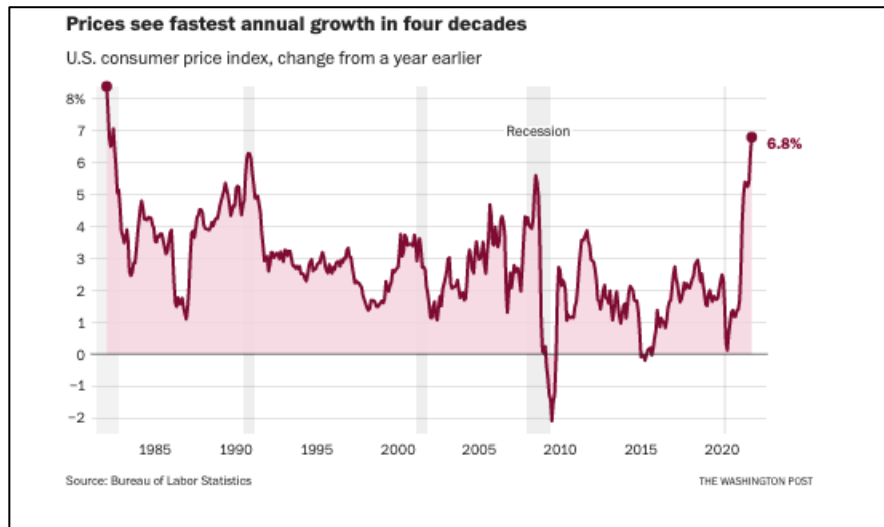
- **The American Rescue Plan is a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package.** “President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package on Thursday. The colossal bill, known as the American Rescue Plan, allocates money for vaccines, schools, small businesses and anti-poverty programs such as an expanded child tax credit that will mean new monthly payments to many parents.” (Barbara Sprunt, “Here's What's In The American Rescue Plan,” [NPR](#), 3/11/21)
  - **The American Rescue Plan was a Democrat plan that no Republicans voted for.** “This week has been a significant week for the American people, as the House passed the final version of the American Rescue Plan and President Joe Biden signed it into law. House Democrats secured major assistance to the middle class with this legislation, including: \$1,400 in direct payments to most families, \$300 enhanced unemployment benefits through Labor Day, boosting SNAP benefits by 15%, and increasing the child tax credit to up to \$3,600 per child, which will lift half of American children out of poverty. In addition, the American Rescue Plan will establish a national vaccination strategy, ensure schools have the resources to resume in-person learning safely, strengthen the Affordable Care Act, and support small businesses. It is a shame that zero Republicans voted to send this critical relief to families, despite poll after poll reflecting broad, bipartisan support for this bill. Nevertheless, under President Biden's leadership, Democrats have delivered For The People and now that the American Rescue Plan has been signed into law, direct assistance will be given to Americans immediately around our country.” (Steny Hoyer Majority Leader, “Democrats Deliver Needed Relief to Americans with the American Rescue Plan,” [Press Release](#), 3/12/21)

**The American Rescue Plan and infrastructure bill exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in over four decades:**

**Editor's Note:** To see most recent inflation numbers, please see the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics monthly [data](#).

- **In March 2022, inflation reached its highest levels in over 40 years.** “Inflation surges to 8.5%, highest in over 40 years... Inflation surged again in March, as consumer prices hit yet another fresh peak not seen in a generation. Why it matters: The relentless rise in prices is a challenge for investors, Federal Reserve policy makers and politicians, who are all trying to navigate an inflationary backdrop that hasn't been seen since the early 1980s. Driving the news: The consumer price index rose 1.2% in March compared to February, above

economists expectations for 1.1%. Prices were up 8.5% over the last year, higher than the 8.4% rise that economists expected, according to consensus expectations reported by FactSet. That's the highest annual rate of inflation since December 1981.” (Matt Phillips, “Inflation surges to 8.5%, highest in over 40 years,” [Axios](#), 4/12/22)



(Rachel Siegel, “Prices Climbed 6.8% In November Compared With Last Year, Largest Rise In Nearly Four Decades, As Inflation Spreads Through Economy,” [Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)

- **“The Labor Department said the increases for food and energy were the fastest 12-month gains in at least 13 years.”** “The Labor Department said the increases for food and energy were the fastest 12-month gains in at least 13 years.” (Megan Henney, “US Inflation Surges To 39-Year High As Consumer Prices Soar,” [Fox News](#), 12/10/21)
- **HEADLINE: “. . . Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.”**



(Jeanna Smialek, “A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)

- **According to a regional Federal Reserve Bank analysis, the American Rescue Plan boosted inflation.** “Inflation is likely getting a temporary boost from the \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package that the Biden administration ushered in early this year, new Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco research released on Monday suggested.” (Jeanna Smialek, “A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)
- **Researchers found that the American Rescue Plan might raise the vacancy-to-unemployment ratio close to its historical peak in 1968, fueling inflation.** “Based on the package’s size and using historical evidence on how fiscal spending affects the labor market, the researchers found that the American Rescue Plan might raise the vacancy-to-unemployment ratio close to its historical peak in 1968, fueling some inflation – but that the price impact would be small and short-lived.” (Jeanna Smialek, “A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden’s stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.,” [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)

- **The American Rescue Plan extended supplemental unemployment benefits.** “The American Rescue Plan extended unemployment benefits until September 6 with a weekly supplemental benefit of \$300 on top of the regular \$400 benefit.” (The White House, “[American Rescue Plan](#),” Accessed 11/1/21)
- **COVID-related unemployment benefits contribute to inflation.** “5) Low-wage workers are finally getting raises. Full-service restaurants saw no inflation in April, but fast-food establishments jacked up prices significantly. ... With their savings buttressed by stimulus checks – and, for the previously laid off, their sustenance assured by \$300-a-week federal unemployment benefits – many American workers have become newly empowered to turn down lousy job offers. This, combined with resurgent demand, has produced a shortage of labor in some sectors, forcing firms to raise wages to attract new hires.” (Eric Levitz, “THE ECONOMY JUNE 8, 2021 The Case for (and Against) Worrying About Inflation,” [NY Mag](#), 6/8/21)
- **According to the Heritage Foundation, Biden’s infrastructure bill contributed to the worst inflation surge in decades.** “The harmful effects of excessive government spending have become the most pressing issue for Americans due to the worst inflation surge in decades. Washington’s reckless choice to pump trillions of dollars into the economy is the reason we face more inflation than other top economies around the world. Yet, incredibly, Congress is still planning an onslaught of additional inflationary spending bills with seemingly no end in sight... Compared to projections from February 2021, when Biden had just taken office, the latest analysis shows a combined \$2.77 trillion in additional deficits over the 2021-2031 period. The largest factor for this increase was the wasteful and opportunistic \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 package that passed with exclusively Democratic support in March 2021. The shoddy \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that Biden championed added even more red ink.” (David Ditch, “New Charts Reveal Harms of Biden’s Budget-Busting Binge,” [The Heritage Foundation](#), 6/8/22)

**On November 19, 2021, Elaine Luria voted for H.R. 5378, the Build Back Better Act:**

- **On November 19, 2021, Elaine Luria voted for H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act.** (H.R. 5376, [Roll Call 385](#), Passed 220-213: R 0-212, D 220-1 Elaine Luria voted Yea., 11/19/21)

*Editor’s Note: The version of the Build Back Better Act referenced is the one that passed the House of Representatives on November 19, 2021 and has not been passed by the Senate or signed into law.*

**Build Back Better is President “Biden’s \$1.7 trillion social spending and climate bill:”**

- **Build Back Better is President “Biden’s \$1.7 trillion social spending and climate bill.”** “The House passed President Joe Biden’s \$1.7 trillion social spending and climate bill, and the Senate aims to approve it before Christmas.” (Jacob Pramuk, “The House passed Biden’s massive social safety net and climate bill. Here’s what happens next,” [CNBC](#), 11/19/21)
  - **The social spending bill is Build Back Better.** “After months of starts and stops, the House passed President Joe Biden’s \$1.7 trillion social safety net and climate bill on Friday. The process will not get any easier for Democrats as the bill heads to the Senate. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer wants to pass the Build Back Better Act by Christmas. To do so, he will have to get all 50 members of

his caucus – from conservative Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia to democratic socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont – to back the same sweeping plan.” (Jacob Pramuk, “The House passed Biden’s massive social safety net and climate bill. Here’s what happens next,” [CNBC](#), 11/19/21)

### **On November 5, 2021, Elaine Luria voted for H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which “contributed to the worst inflation surge in decades:”**

- **On November 5, 2021, Luria voted for the Motion to Concur on H.R. 3684, passing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.** (H.R. 3684, [Roll Call 369](#), Passed 228-206: R 13-200, D 215-6, Luria Voted Yea, 11/5/21)

**Editor’s Note:** 13 Republicans in the House voted for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. That list includes Don Bacon (NE), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA), Andrew Garbarino (NY), Anthony Gonzalez (OH), John Katko (NY), Adam Kinzinger (IL), Nicole Malliotakis (NY), David McKinley (WV), Tom Reed (NY), Christopher Smith (NJ), Fred Upton (MI), Jefferson Van Drew (NJ), and Don Young (AK).

- **According to the Heritage Foundation, Biden’s infrastructure bill contributed to the worst inflation surge in decades.** “The harmful effects of excessive government spending have become the most pressing issue for Americans due to the worst inflation surge in decades. Washington’s reckless choice to pump trillions of dollars into the economy is the reason we face more inflation than other top economies around the world. Yet, incredibly, Congress is still planning an onslaught of additional inflationary spending bills with seemingly no end in sight... Compared to projections from February 2021, when Biden had just taken office, the latest analysis shows a combined \$2.77 trillion in additional deficits over the 2021-2031 period. The largest factor for this increase was the wasteful and opportunistic \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 package that passed with exclusively Democratic support in March 2021. The shoddy \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill that Biden championed added even more red ink.” (David Ditch, “New Charts Reveal Harms of Biden’s Budget-Busting Binge,” [The Heritage Foundation](#), 6/8/22)
  - **President Biden signed the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law in November 2021.** “U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema and other key lawmakers were at President Joe Biden’s side as he signed the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on Monday on the White House lawn.” (Tara Kavalier, “Biden signs into law Sinema-led \$1.2T infrastructure bill,” [AZ Central](#), 11/16/21)

### **Inflation-adjusted hourly earnings have declined, and real average hourly earnings decline at the fastest past in 40 years:**

- **Americans earnings decline yet again when factoring in rising costs.** “As if June inflation data reaching a 41-year high wasn’t enough Wednesday, here’s some worse news: Americans’ earnings declined yet again last month when factoring in rising costs.” (Andrew Keshner, “Here’s one curveball that makes June’s 41-year-high inflation data a lot worse,” [MarketWatch](#), 07/16/22)
- **While the cost of living climbed 1.3% from May to June, inflation-adjusted average hourly earning decline by 1% during the same period.** “While the cost of living climbed 1.3% from May to June according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, it said the inflation-adjusted average hourly earnings actually declined by 1% in the same time period.” (Andrew Keshner, “Here’s one curveball that makes June’s 41-year-high inflation data a lot worse,” [MarketWatch](#), 07/16/22)

- There was a 3.6% contraction in real hourly earnings year-over-year, paired against a 9.1% annualized inflation rate in June. “That’s a 3.6% contraction in real hourly earnings year-over-year, paired against a 9.1% annualized inflation rate in June. Year-over-year decreases in real hourly earnings have been occurring since April 2021, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.” (Andrew Keshner, “Here’s one curveball that makes June’s 41-year-high inflation data a lot worse,” [MarketWatch](#), 07/16/22)
- Real average hourly earnings declined at the fastest pace in 40 years.



([Jason Furman Twitter](#), 07/13/22)