

During the pandemic, Elaine Luria voted for legislation that spends hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars on projects like golf courses, a ski slope, and a luxury hotel.

BACKUP:

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

- **In March 2021, Elaine 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, Luria Voted Yea, 3/10/21)
 - **President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law in March 2021.** “President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act into law on Thursday, finalizing an early policy victory that will send much-needed aid to millions of Americans still struggling from the COVID-19 pandemic.” (Grace Segers, “Biden signs \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan into law,” [CBS News](#), 3/12/21)
 - **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 passed through Congress with only Democratic support.** “The American Rescue plan made it through Congress with only Democratic support, making it stand out from the bipartisan COVID relief plans Congress passed over the last year.” (Savannah Behrmann, “Takeaways from the COVID-19 stimulus bill passing Congress: Weeks of partisan fighting comes to an end with a win for Biden,” [USA Today](#), 3/10/21)
 - **The American Rescue Plan was passed amidst the pandemic.** “Congress approved a sweeping \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package on Wednesday, authorizing a flurry of new federal spending and a temporary yet dramatic increase in anti-poverty programs to help millions of families still struggling amid the pandemic.” (Tony Romm, “Congress adopts \$1.9 trillion stimulus, securing first major win for Biden,” [The Washington Post](#), 3/10/21)

Hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of funds from the American Rescue Plan were spent on projects that have “little to do with combating the pandemic,” such as ski resorts, golf courses, and a “high-end hotel”:

- **Hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of federal coronavirus relief money was spent on projects that have “little to do with combating the pandemic.”** “Thanks to a sudden \$140 million cash infusion, officials in Broward County, Florida, recently broke ground on a high-end hotel that will have views of the Atlantic Ocean and an 11,000-square-foot spa. In New York, Dutchess County pledged \$12 million for renovations of a minor league baseball stadium to meet requirements the New York Yankees set for their farm teams. And in Massachusetts, lawmakers delivered \$5 million to pay off debts of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate in Boston, a nonprofit established to honor the late senator that has struggled financially. The three distinctly different outlays have one thing

in common: Each is among the scores of projects that state and local governments across the United States are funding with federal coronavirus relief money despite having little to do with combating the pandemic, a review by The Associated Press has found.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **“An Associated Press review finds state and local governments have spent nearly \$1 billion worth of federal coronavirus aid on projects that have little to do with combating the pandemic.”** (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)
- **The federal coronavirus relief funds came from the American Rescue Plan.** “The expenditures amount to a fraction of the \$350 billion made available through last year’s American Rescue Plan to help state and local governments weather the crisis.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)
- **Headline: “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes”**

Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes

By BRIAN SLODYSKO March 23, 2022

(Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **More than \$6 million was allocated to replace irrigation systems at two golf courses in Colorado Springs.**

—\$6.6 million to replace irrigation systems at two golf courses in Colorado Springs.

(Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **Palm Beach Gardens, Florida “is building a new golf course” with the money they received from the American Rescue Plan.** “Palm Beach Gardens, Florida – in Palm Beach County, home to 160 golf courses – is building a new golf course. These are among the thousands of ways cities and counties have started spending the first tranche of covid relief money from the American Rescue Plan Act passed by Congress in March. That economic rescue package provides \$130 billion to cities and counties – with few restrictions on how the money can be spent. For many, it was their first economic relief directly received from the federal government.” (Phil Galewitz, “From Sewers to Golf Courses, Cities See Green With New Federal Covid Relief Dollars,” [KHN](#), 10/8/21)
- **An Iowa county acquired a privately owned ski resort.** “The Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors announced Tuesday it has acquired the Mt. Crescent Ski area, previously privately owned by Korby and Samantha Fleischer. The Fleischers will continue to manage the facility as a ski resort through the 2022 ski season. Pottawattamie County will take full control in the summer of 2022.” (“Pottawattamie County buys Mt. Crescent Ski area for \$3.5 million,” [KETV](#), 1/4/22)
 - **Two million dollars from the American Rescue Plan were used to acquire the ski resort.** “The Iowa West Foundation helped make the transfer possible with \$1.5 million and the other \$2 million is coming from the American Rescue Plan Action, COVID-19 federal relief funds.” (“Pottawattamie County buys Mt. Crescent Ski area for \$3.5 million,” [KETV](#), 1/4/22)

- **Officials in Florida used \$140 million in American Rescue Plan funding to help construct a “high-end hotel” that will have ocean views and an 11,000-square-foot spa.** “Thanks to a sudden \$140 million cash infusion, officials in Broward County, Florida, recently broke ground on a high-end hotel that will have views of the Atlantic Ocean and an 11,000-square-foot spa. In New York, Dutchess County pledged \$12 million for renovations of a minor league baseball stadium to meet requirements the New York Yankees set for their farm teams. And in Massachusetts, lawmakers delivered \$5 million to pay off debts of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate in Boston, a nonprofit established to honor the late senator that has struggled financially. The three distinctly different outlays have one thing in common: Each is among the scores of projects that state and local governments across the United States are funding with federal coronavirus relief money despite having little to do with combating the pandemic, a review by The Associated Press has found.” (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)