

Jared Golden voted for trillions of dollars in additional government spending which has contributed to the worst inflation in 40 years.

BACKUP:

Jared Golden voted for the \$1.8 trillion CARES Act, which he later noted was partly to blame for inflation:

- **Jared Golden voted for the CARES Act.** “Today, the House of Representatives considers the CARES Act, a massive emergency funding bill to provide economic relief to millions of Americans and escalate the fight against the coronavirus. Congressman Golden (ME-02) announced his support for the bipartisan legislation in a statement for the Congressional Record...” (Rep. Jared Golden, “Golden Statement on Emergency Coronavirus Bill,” [Press Release](#), 3/27/20)

Editor’s Note: The CARES Act was [passed](#) by voice vote, and Members of the House were able to provide their stated position on the voice vote for the Congressional Record.

- **The CARES Act was a \$1.8 trillion piece of legislation.** “The most recent legislation—the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act—provides \$1.8 trillion in direct aid to individuals and businesses, the largest stimulus package in U.S. history.” (Romina Boccia, “This Is How Big the COVID-19 CARES Act Relief Bill Is,” [The Heritage Foundation](#), 4/20/20)
- **In November 2021, Jared Golden admitted that money Congress has “dumped into the economy” is partly to blame for inflation.** “Rep. Jared Golden, a Democrat who unseated Poliquin in 2018, said money Washington, D.C., is pumping into the system is partly to blame. ‘I think some of this obviously comes out of the pandemic and disruptions there,’ Golden told Fox News. ‘Some of it is ... a lot of money has been dumped into the economy. First, with things like the CARES Act, which we did in the last Congress and the last administration,’ he continued. ‘Good reasons behind it, but I think as we see more money coming in, that’s also causing inflation.’” (Matt Leach and Matt Wall, “Inflation sparks financial insecurity in New England as winter looms,” [Fox News](#), 11/26/21)
- **Golden specifically noted that Congressional actions, such as the CARES Act, are “also causing inflation.”** “First, with things like the CARES Act, which we did in the last Congress and the last administration,’ he continued. ‘Good reasons behind it, but I think as we see more money coming in, that’s also causing inflation.’” (Matt Leach and Matt Wall, “Inflation sparks financial insecurity in New England as winter looms,” [Fox News](#), 11/26/21)

On November 5, 2021, Jared Golden voted for H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which shored up \$1.2 trillion in funds:

- **On November 5, 2021, Jared Golden 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, Golden Voted YEA 11/5/21)

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act shored up \$1.2 trillion in funds.** “President Joe Biden on Monday signed into law one of the largest infrastructure packages in U.S. history after months of bipartisan negotiations and tense political infighting, shoring up \$1.2 trillion in funds, including \$550 billion in new investments for the nation's bridges, airports, waterways, public transit and more—here's what you need to know about where the massive new spending will go.” (Jonathan Ponciano, “Everything In The \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Bill: New Roads, Electric School Buses And More,” [Forbes](#), 11/15/21)

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act “did not provide for coordinated, independent oversight” of its funding and only mentioned fraud “seven times in the 2000-page bill:”

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act “did not provide for coordinated, independent oversight” of its funding and only mentioned fraud “seven times in the 2000-page bill.”** “However, unlike the Recovery Act or the CARES Act, the bill did not provide for coordinated, independent oversight of this funding. The bill exhorted federal agencies ‘to establish sufficient transparency, accountability reporting and oversight measures’ for specific programs (such as the digital equity grant program related to broadband). But as Professor Jetson Leder-Luis points out, the bill did not focus on the potential for fraud, and ‘the word fraud appeared only seven times in the 2000-page bill.” (Glenn Fine, “Fighting fraud, waste, and abuse—the infrastructure bill and lessons for the future,” [Brookings](#), 2/11/22)

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act “did not create a central oversight mechanism to coordinate oversight of infrastructure spending” despite infrastructure spending being a “particularly fertile target for fraudsters:”

- **The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act “did not create a central oversight mechanism to coordinate oversight of infrastructure spending.”** “The bill did not create a central oversight mechanism to coordinate oversight of infrastructure spending, like the Recovery Board or PRAC. It did not even assign the existing PRAC responsibility for such oversight.” (Glenn Fine, “Fighting fraud, waste, and abuse—the infrastructure bill and lessons for the future,” [Brookings](#), 2/11/22)
- **“Infrastructure spending is a particularly fertile target for fraudsters.”** “Infrastructure spending is a particularly fertile target for fraudsters. The Coalition for Public Integrity issued a comprehensive report when the infrastructure bill was being considered which stressed the need for robust oversight because of the scope, complexity, and cost of the infrastructure legislation. The report noted that without such oversight, infrastructure projects at all levels risked falling victim to fraud. For example, costs can be inflated and inferior products and materials can be substituted easily. Bids on infrastructure projects are also susceptible to collusion and bid rigging. The Boston’s Big Dig is perhaps the most well-known example of an infrastructure project replete with waste and fraud.” (Glenn Fine, “Fighting fraud, waste, and abuse—the infrastructure bill and lessons for the future,” [Brookings](#), 2/11/22)

In January 2022, inflation hit a 40-year high of 7.5%:

- **Headline from *The Wall Street Journal*: “U.S. Inflation Rate Accelerates to a 40-Year High of 7.5%”** (Gwynn Guilford, “U.S. Inflation Rate Accelerates to a 40-Year High of 7.5%,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 2/10/22)
- **In January 2022, inflation hit a four-decade high of 7.5%.** “A relentless surge in U.S. inflation reached another four-decade high last month, accelerating to a 7.5% annual rate as strong consumer demand collided with pandemic-related supply disruptions. The Labor Department on Thursday said the consumer-price index—which measures what consumers pay for goods and services—in January reached its highest level since February 1982, when compared with the same month a year ago. That put inflation above December’s 7% annual rate and well above the 1.8% annual rate for inflation in 2019 ahead of the pandemic.” (Gwynn Guilford, “U.S. Inflation Rate Accelerates to a 40-Year High of 7.5%,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 2/10/22)