

While on the Babylon Town Board, Jackie Gordon raised taxes by more than 20 percent.

BACKUP:

[Editor's Note](#): From 2007 – 2020, Jackie Gordon served as a member of the Town of Babylon, New York's Town Board.

In 2011, Gordon admitted the town had passed two tax increases during her time on the town board, including one for 9 percent and another for 13 percent:

- **In 2011 a citizen questioned Gordon regarding town tax increases, and she admitted that the town had passed two tax increases during her time on the board.** QUESTIONER: "You have been on the Town Board five or six years now?" GORDON: "I have." QUESTIONER: "Okay. How much have town taxes increased since you've been on the Town Board?" GORDON: "We've had two tax increases since I've been on the Town Board." QUESTIONER: "How much?" GORDON: "The first one was for 9 plus percent. The second one was 13 plus percent." QUESTIONER: "Okay. So, that comes to 24 and a half percent since you've been on the town board. Okay. If we add the highway taxes to that, it comes to 35.9 percent. Take my word for it? If you know that, and that is true that town taxes went up, how much did this cost the taxpayers to produce this booklet? [Inaudible] Because that says there was a tax cut. And there wasn't a tax cut. Is that correct?" SUPERVISOR BELLONE: "I'll get that information to you. QUESTIONER: "Excuse me?" BELLONE: "I'll get that information to you." ([Babylon Town Board Meeting](#), Uploaded 9/28/11) Minute 0:10:1:39

The Babylon Town Board raised taxes during the Great Recession, a decision that Jackie Gordon defended:

- **During the Great Recession, Jackie Gordon said that the Town of Babylon was caught in the economic recession as well, and that the town had to raise taxes for that reason.** INTERVIEWER: "undeniably, we're in a recession. And of course members of the religious community, part of what we encourage people, is to not be overtaken by the reality of the recession. As a member of a governmental structure, what kind of response and remedies does the Town of Babylon intend to offer for those of us who are caught in the throes of this economic recession?" GORDON: "Well, we too at the Town of Babylon and the policy-making arena are in the same throes, but we try. As you know, as you're well aware, we have held the line on taxes for several years. This year, because of the recession we had to raise taxes, which amounted to I think 26 dollars and change per household. So we tried to make sure that although we have to raise it we try to limit how much we raise it because we know it's hard for everyone. We also just recently was able to get legislation passed that allowed our fire fighters and emergency workers to tap into the group health insurance plan through the Town, so that will help them be able to afford health care for their families at a reduced rate, they pay the way we pay. What other things are we doing with the recession. We are not hiring any other full-time folks. Those people who are retiring, we are able to, although it's a little taxing on the other folks in the office, but we try to absorb that workload so we don't have to hire any additional people. So these are some of the ways we're trying to cut governmental costs in the Town, which will – you

know, the results of that will turn over to our constituents.” (Jackie Gordon, [Interview On The Bishop's Roundtable](#), 7/8/09) Minute 8:00-10:00

- **The financial crisis of 2008 technically lasted for 18 months and it was the biggest economic meltdown in the United States since the Great Depression.** “Technically speaking, the financial crisis of 2008, the biggest economic meltdown in the U.S. since the Great Depression, lasted a little more than 18 months, and ended long ago. From December 2007 to June 2009, the GDP contracted sharply, and then the economy began growing again.” (“How the Great Recession Changed American Workers,” [Wharton](#), University of Pennsylvania, 9/10/18)