

Dan Kildee voted for a nearly \$2 trillion dollar spending bill that nonpartisan experts say contributed to the worst inflation in 40 years. The Kildee-backed bill spends hundreds of millions of dollars on projects like golf courses, ski slopes, a luxury hotel, and stimulus checks for prison inmates.

BACKUP:

Dan Kildee helped to craft and voted for H.R. 1319, the “American Rescue Plan Act,” a partisan coronavirus relief package that cost nearly \$2 trillion:

- **In March 2021, Dan Kildee 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, Kildee 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)
- **VIDEO: Dan Kildee claims that he “worked on and helped to craft” the American Rescue Plan.** Kildee: “I just wanted to take a moment to share the exciting resources that are coming to our community as a result of the American Rescue Plan, which I worked on and helped to craft. The American Rescue Plan is going to help Flint families... I was able to bring home direct support for Flint... So, this federal investment will go a long way to support our local economy and local families. Yes, the American Rescue Plan is a really big bill. A really expensive investment... I was proud to work on this legislation with President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, and I’ll continue to work to pass legislation like this...” (City of Flint, “Community Update: Mayor Neeley welcomes community input in setting funding priorities,” [YouTube Clipped](#), 4/27/21)
- **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 on a partisan basis.** “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)

Nonpartisan experts say that the American Rescue plan exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in four decades:

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

- As of June 2022, inflation reached an annual rate of 9.1%, the highest rate of inflation since 1981. “Shoppers paid sharply higher prices for a variety of goods in June as inflation kept its hold on a slowing U.S. economy, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday. The consumer price index, a broad measure of everyday goods and services related to the cost of living, soared 9.1% from a year ago, above the 8.8% Dow Jones estimate. That marked the fastest pace for inflation going back to November 1981.” (Jeff Cox, “Inflation rose 9.1% in June, even more than expected, as consumer pressures intensify,” [CNBC](#), 7/13/22)
- HEADLINE from *The Associated Press*: “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread” (Christopher Rugaber, “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/10/22)



(Christopher Rugaber, “US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/10/22)

- 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)

Editor’s Note: Over the past century, research within the Federal Reserve System has been [nonpartisan](#) and independent.

- HEADLINE from *The New York Times*: “. . . 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)



(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 contributed 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)

Additional government spending caused a rise in the prices of goods:

- **CNN BUSINESS HEADLINE: “All that stimulus is sending inflation higher”** (Anneken Tappe, “All that stimulus is sending inflation higher,” [CNN Business](#), 4/9/21)
- **Stimulus checks caused additional spending, decreasing supply and driving up prices.** “Supply bottlenecks have occurred because companies were caught flat-footed by the speed of the economic recovery from the pandemic, with most consumers flush with cash, after multiple stimulus checks, and spending freely. With everyone now ramping up at once, manufacturers, shipping firms, miners and agricultural companies can’t keep up.” (Christopher Rugaber, “EXPLAINER: Why are fears of high inflation getting worse?,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/12/21)
- **Consumer goods prices are up.** “Gas prices are rising. Auto prices are soaring. Consumer goods companies are charging more for household basics like toilet paper, peanut butter and soft drinks.” (Christopher Rugaber, “EXPLAINER: Why are fears of high inflation getting worse?,” [The Associated Press](#), 5/12/21)
- **Food companies like Campbell Soup, Kraft Heinz and Mondelez have all announced higher prices on items.** “Food companies like Campbell Soup, Kraft Heinz and Mondelez have all announced higher prices on items that include soup, macaroni and cheese, crackers, and cookies, and Dollar Tree announced it’s hiking prices on most products to \$1.25.” (Rachel Siegel, “Prices Climbed 6.8% In November Compared With Last Year, Largest Rise In Nearly Four Decades, As Inflation Spreads Through Economy,” [The Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)

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 slopes, golf courses, and a “high-end hotel”:

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

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,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **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,” [The 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,” [The 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,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)
- **More than \$6 million was allocated to replace irrigation systems at two golf courses in Colorado Springs.** (Brian Slodysko, “Pandemic relief money spent on hotel, ballpark, ski slopes,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

—\$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,” [The 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,” [The Associated Press](#), 3/23/22)

- **VIDEO: According to reporting from WPLG Local 10, Broward County wanted a hotel next to its convention center for years, but did not have the money for it until Congress passed the American Rescue Plan, which enabled the county to spend “MILLIONS of taxpayer dollars” on a “luxurious 800-room hotel.”** WPLG Local 10 anchor: “Local 10 is investigating after Broward County recently broke ground on a new luxury hotel next to the convention center using MILLIONS of taxpayer dollars intended for COVID relief. Our senior political reporter Michael Putney has more from the newsroom, Michael.” PUTNEY: “...Broward County government insists it’s done nothing wrong, but it is spending \$140 million meant for COVID relief on this convention center hotel.” MALE ANCHOR: “Work is well under way on a luxurious 800-room hotel next to the Broward Convention Center. The entire project will cost about a billion dollars... 140 million dollars for the hotel is coming from the America Rescue Plan – a HUGE pot of money allocated by Congress to help communities alleviate the pain of the pandemic.” PUTNEY: “For years, Broward County has wanted a hotel next to its convention center, but didn’t have the money. Then, along came the American Rescue Plan. And Broward is spending a hundred and forty million dollars of COVID relief money to build the hotel, but that’s not what it was intended for.” (Michael Putney, “Broward uses \$140M in COVID funds to build hotel,” [WPLG Local 10, CLIPPED](#), 3/24/22)
 - **PUTNEY: “The new hotel and expanded convention center will boost business and create jobs in Broward...”** (Michael Putney, “Broward uses \$140M in COVID funds to build hotel,” [WPLG Local 10, CLIP](#) begins at 2:03, 3/24/22)

The American Rescue plan contained millions of dollars’ worth of spending that was not directly COVID-19 related:

- **The American Rescue Plan would give \$1.5 million for a bridge connecting New York to Canada.** “The bill would give \$1.5 million to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. ‘to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus by conducting the operations, maintenance and capital infrastructure activities of the Seaway International

Bridge,' which connects New York State and Ontario." (Tom Kertscher, "The COVID-19 rescue bill includes money for a list of projects that are not COVID-related," [PolitiFact](#), 02/26/21)

- **The American Rescue Plan would give \$112 million to a railroad project in Silicon Valley.** "Stand for America cites a Fox Business news article that says the language of the bill alludes to \$112 million going to phase two of the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) expansion. The Washington Post also reported that it's estimated the expansion will receive about \$112 million." (Tom Kertscher, "The COVID-19 rescue bill includes money for a list of projects that are not COVID-related," [PolitiFact](#), 02/26/21)
- **The American Rescue Plan would allocate nearly \$500 million for museums & Native American language preservation.** "The bill 'would appropriate \$480 million for grants to fund activities related to the arts, humanities, libraries and museums, and Native American language preservation and maintenance,' according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office." (Tom Kertscher, "The COVID-19 rescue bill includes money for a list of projects that are not COVID-related," [PolitiFact](#), 02/26/21)
- **The American Rescue Plan would allocate \$1.5 billion for Amtrak.** "The bill would steer grants totaling \$1.5 billion to the National Railroad Passenger Corp. (Amtrak) 'to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus': \$820.4 million for the northeast corridor and \$679.6 million for the national network." (Tom Kertscher, "The COVID-19 rescue bill includes money for a list of projects that are not COVID-related," [PolitiFact](#), 02/26/21)
- **The American Rescue Plan would appropriate \$50 million for grants to family planning organizations.** "The bill appropriates \$50 million 'for making grants and contracts under' the Public Health Service Act, which gives grants and contracts for family planning." (Tom Kertscher, "The COVID-19 rescue bill includes money for a list of projects that are not COVID-related," [PolitiFact](#), 02/26/21)

The American Rescue Plan sent nearly \$1 billion in stimulus payments to prison inmates:

- **The American Rescue Plan sent nearly \$1 billion in stimulus payments to prison inmates in 2021.** "The federal government doled out nearly a billion dollars in stimulus payments to prison inmates in 2021 under President Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan, according to IRS records obtained by the Washington Examiner. The third-round stimulus payments to prisoners totaled \$924.3 million, which was much greater than previously reported. The checks went out despite efforts by Republican Sens. Tom Cotton of Arkansas and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana to bar stimulus funds from going to prisoners. Senate Democrats voted unanimously against the amendment in a 50-49 party-line vote in March 2021." (Jerry Dunleavy and Andrew Kerr, "Nearly \$1 billion in stimulus funds sent to prisoners in 2021, 'terrorists and perverts' got \$1,400 checks," [Washington Examiner](#), 2/11/22)