

As Chairman of the Audit Committee in the California Assembly, Rudy Salas is supposed to protect our tax dollars. But under his watch, the State of California has paid out \$20 billion in fraudulent unemployment benefits, including more than \$800 million in scam payments to criminals in California prisons.

BACKUP:

In January 2019, Rudy Salas was selected to serve as Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee:

Editor's Note: Rudy Salas is [no longer](#) Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee as of August 15th, 2022 reporting in California Politico Playbook and since the time the message was tested. Rudy Salas [was still](#) Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee as of July 2022.

- **Rudy Salas was selected to serve as Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.** “Assemblymember Rudy Salas (D-Bakersfield) was selected to serve as Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood).” (Press Release, “Assemblymember Salas Selected Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, [Assembly Member Rudy Salas](#), 01/02/19)

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) has the goal of improving government performance and oversees the operations and finances of government and publicly created entities:

- **The Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) has the goal of improving government performance and oversees the operations and finances of government and publicly created entities.** “With the goal of improving government performance, the JLAC independently and through the work of the California State Auditor’s Office (CSA) oversees the operations and finances of government and publicly created entities.” (About, [JLAC](#), Accessed 07/21/22)

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) monitors government operations through oversight hearings:

- **The JLAC monitors government operations through oversight hearings.** “The JLAC reviews and takes action on audit requests, which are submitted to the Committee from any Member of the Legislature. It also monitors government operations through oversight hearings.” (About, [JLAC](#), Accessed 07/21/22)
- **The Chair sets the schedule for hearings.** “The Chair sets the schedule of hearings, directs the order of presentation for topics for consideration, permits questions to be asked by members of the Committee, and solicits public comment at each hearing. During hearings that require Committee action on any matter, four members from each house constitute a quorum and the number of votes necessary for an action.” (About, [JLAC](#), Accessed 07/21/22)

California’s Employment Development Department (EDD) lost \$20 billion dollars to fraud which occurred through the state’s pandemic unemployment program:

- **California’s Employment Development Department (EDD) lost \$20 billion dollars to fraud.** “Another day, another dollar lost in Employment Development Department (EDD) fraud. So far, California's EDD has lost \$20 billion to fraud, according to Sacramento District Attorney Anne-Marie Schubert.” (Andie Judson, “New EDD fraud scam targets those who haven’t applied for unemployment benefits,” [ABC 10](#), 12/20/21)
 - **California gave away at least \$20 billion to criminals in the form of fraudulent unemployment benefits.** “California has given away at least \$20 billion to criminals in the form of fraudulent unemployment benefits, state officials said Monday, confirming a number smaller than originally feared but one that still accounts for more than 11% of all benefits paid since the start of the pandemic.” (Adam Beam, “California’s unemployment fraud reaches at least \$20 billion,” [The Los Angeles Times](#), 10/25/21)
- **The fraud occurred through the state’s pandemic unemployment program.** “The hefty cost of fraud has occurred through the EDD's pandemic unemployment program. But now criminals are targeting disability fraud by stealing identities and filing for false disability insurance claims.” (Andie Judson, “New EDD fraud scam targets those who haven’t applied for unemployment benefits,” [ABC 10](#), 12/20/21)

\$8000 million in jobless benefits went to inmates who fraudulently filed:

- **\$8000 million in jobless benefits went to inmates who fraudulently filed.** “A state auditor reported in January said the EDD gave out \$800 million in jobless benefits to inmates who fraudulently filed. Now, innocent people say they're being entangled in a crackdown on fraud they have nothing to do with.” (Michael Finney, “CA man can’t get unemployment benefits because EDD claims he’s in prison,” [ABC 30](#), 04/14/21)