

At a time of record inflation and sky-high prices on everything from gas to housing to diapers, Rudy Salas voted for a spending bill that could make inflation even worse. Since he's been in the Assembly, Salas voted for budgets which could have increased government spending by 73 percent or by over one-hundred billion dollars. We can't send big spender Rudy Salas to Congress.

BACKUP:

California has the highest gas prices in the nation:

- **California has the highest gas prices in the nation.** “California is once again at the top of the charts, leading the nation in... wait for it... gas and diesel prices. AAA reports today’s national average of \$5.014 per gallon – California comes in at a cool \$6.436 per gallon for Regular, and nearly \$7.00 per gallon for Diesel. California’s prices greatly top the national averages: The average for a gallon of regular gas in California is \$6.436 per gallon, and a gallon of diesel is \$6.991.” (Katy Grimes, “California Tops Nation’s Highest Gas Prices at \$6.43 Per Gallon,” [The California Globe](#), 06/13/22)
- **As of July 18, 2022, California has the highest gas prices in the nation, and a state gas take hike increased prices by about 3 cents per gallon.** “California has consistently reported the highest average gas prices, clocking in at \$5.90 as of Monday, according to AAA. A state gas tax hike took effect on July 1, increasing prices by roughly 3 cents per gallon.” (Zach Schonfeld, “Here are the highest and lowest gas prices in the US today,” [The Hill](#), 07/18/22)

Per reporting on July 13th, 2022, inflation soared 9.1% compared to a year earlier, the biggest yearly increase since 1981 and up from an 8.6% jump in May:

Editor’s Note: *Joe Biden was President at the time.*

- **Inflation soared 9.1% compared to a year earlier, the biggest yearly increase since 1981 and up from an 8.6% jump in May.** “Consumer prices soared 9.1 percent compared with a year earlier, the government said Wednesday, the biggest yearly increase since 1981, and up from an 8.6 percent jump in May.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **On a monthly basis, prices rose 1.3% from May to June, another substantial price increase after prices jumped 1% from April to May.** “On a monthly basis, prices rose 1.3 percent from May to June, another substantial increase, after prices had jumped 1 percent from April to May.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **Grocery prices jumped 12.2% compared with a year ago, the steepest such climb since 1979.** “Grocery prices have jumped 12.2 percent compared with a year ago, the steepest such climb since 1979.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **Rents increased by 5.8%, the most since 1986.** “Rents have risen 5.8 percent, the most since 1986.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)

- **New car prices increased 11.4% from a year earlier.** “New car prices have increased 11.4 percent from a year earlier.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **Airline fares are up 34% from a year earlier.** “And airline fares, one of the few items to post a price decline in June, are nevertheless up 34 percent from a year earlier.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)
- **From May to June, the cost of dental services surged 1.9%, the biggest one-month increase since record-keeping began in 1995.** “From May to June, the cost of dental services surged 1.9 percent, the biggest one-month increase since record-keeping began in 1995.” (Christopher Rugaber, “U.S. inflation at 9.1 percent, a record high,” [PBS News Hour](#), 07/13/22)

Nationally prices jumped 8.6% in the 12 months ending in May, while increases in California averaged an annualized rate of 9.2% according to an analysis by the UCLA Anderson School of Management:

- **Nationally prices jumped 8.6% in the 12 months ending in May, while increases in California averaged an annualized rate of 9.2% according to an analysis by the UCLA Anderson School of Management analysis.** “Newsom and legislative leaders call their plan an ‘inflation relief’ package. Nationally, prices jumped 8.6% in the 12 months ending in May. Increases in California averaged an annualized rate of 9.2% this spring, according to the UCLA Anderson School of Management analysis.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)
 - **Food prices went up 10.1% and new car prices were up 12.6% over the last year.** “Food prices have gone up 10.1% in the past year. New car prices nationally were up 12.6% over the last year.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)
 - **Air fares rose 12.6% just in May.** “Air fares rose 12.6% just in May.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)

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The average unit price of diapers was up 14% year over year in January:

- **The average unit price of diapers was up 14% year over year in January.** “The average unit price of diapers was up 14% year over year in January and has remained elevated ever since, according to data from Nielsen.” (Gerald Porter Jr., “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.,” [Bloomberg](#), 07/09/21)
 - **Packages that cost about \$25 last year can now cost \$40 and there are fewer diapers inside.** “Packages that cost about \$25 last year now can cost \$40 – and there are fewer inside.” (Gerald Porter Jr., “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.,” [Bloomberg](#), 07/09/21)

- **Baby-care items from rash salves to wipes have seen double-digit increases.** “Indeed, baby-care items from rash salves to wipes have seen double-digit increases, and companies have said prices will rise again.” (Gerald Porter Jr., “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.,” [Bloomberg](#), 07/09/21)
- **HEADLINE: “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.”**

Equality + Businessweek

Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.

P&G and Kimberly-Clark pass on higher costs to parents

(Gerald Porter Jr., “Diaper Inflation Wrecks Already-Strained Family Budgets in U.S.,” [Bloomberg](#), 07/09/21)

Rudy Salas voted for AB 192, a trailer bill to the budget which would provide \$9.5 billion in payments to Californians:

- **Rudy Salas voted for AB 192, Better for Families Tax Refund.** (AB 192, Y: 74 N: 0 NVR: 6, Salas Voted Yes, [California Legislative Information](#), 06/29/22)
 - **AB 192 was a trailer bill that establishes the Better for Families Act, a framework to provide \$9.5 billion in payments.** “This trailer bill establishes the Better for Families Act, a framework to provide approximately \$9.5 billion of payments to low-income and middle-income Californians in order to provide financial relief for economic disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 emergency, such as the financial burdens of inflation and increasing costs for gas, groceries, and other necessities. This bill contains changes necessary to implement the 2022 Budget Act.” (Assembly Floor Analysis, [AB 192](#), 06/28/22)

According to top economists, the \$9.5 billion in payments championed by Democrat legislative leaders could push inflation – at its highest level in 40 years – even higher:

- **The inflation relief package championed by Democratic legislative leaders could push inflation – at its highest level in 40 years – even higher according to top economists.** “The ‘inflation relief’ package championed by Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic legislative leaders could have the opposite effect, pushing inflation – now at its higher level in 40 years – even higher, top economists say.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)
- **After The Sacramento Bee contacted economists familiar with California, all but one saw the plan as having the possibility of adding to inflation.** “The Bee contacted economists familiar with California. All but one saw the plan as having the possibility of adding to inflation.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)
- **According to the Vice President of state projects at the Tax Foundation, rebates that “put more money in people’s pockets without doing anything to boost supply are inflationary.”** “One-off tax holidays or rebates which put more money in people’s pockets

without doing anything to boost supply are inflationary,' said Jared Walczak, vice president of state projects at the Tax Foundation, a Washington-based research group." (David Lightman, "Experts warn California's 'inflation relief' could actually send high prices even higher," [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)

- **An associate professor of public policy at Pepperdine University said any "...increases in government spending will generally increase inflationary pressures."** "Any increases in government spending will generally increase inflationary pressures,' said Michael Shires, associate professor of public policy at Pepperdine University." (David Lightman, "Experts warn California's 'inflation relief' could actually send high prices even higher," [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)
- **The President of Los Angeles-based SS Economics said "It will add to demand and stroke inflation."** "It will add to demand and stroke inflation,' said Sung Won Sohn, president of Los Angeles-based SS Economics." (David Lightman, "Experts warn California's 'inflation relief' could actually send high prices even higher," [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)
 - **Editor's Note:** Newsom's advisers said the package, in their view, would have a minimal effect on inflation.
- **Putting more money into circulation, as the California agreement does, could reduce incentives to keep prices stable.** "The Federal Reserve Board is scrambling to weaken demand by raising interest rates. It increased the key rate three-fourths of 1% earlier this month, its biggest one-time hike since 1994, and is expected to increase rates again next month. But putting more money into circulation, as the California agreement gives people more to spend, could reduce incentives to keep prices stable." (David Lightman, "Experts warn California's 'inflation relief' could actually send high prices even higher," [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)
- **HEADLINE:** "Experts warn California's 'inflation relief' could actually send high prices even higher."

Experts warn California's 'inflation relief' could actually send high prices even higher

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN

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(David Lightman, "Experts warn California's 'inflation relief' could actually send high prices even higher," [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)

While Rudy Salas was in the California Assembly, he voted for budgets which increased expenditures by over \$100 billion, or by 73%:

Editor's Note: $73.551\% = ((\$239,500,000,000 - \$138,000,000,000) / (\$138,000,000,000)) * 100$

Editor's Note: Budget [trailer bills](#) in California make statutory changes to implement a passed budget framework. The main budget bill can also be amended by a junior budget bill. The trailer bills are frameworks for where the money to goes. Using the Legislative Analyst Office and Floor Analyses, we were able to get a number based on the percent change in expenditures between the Budget Act of 2013 and Budget Act of 2022. The overall budgets can be edited after the fact through the trailer bills.

Editor's Note: Salas was not in the Assembly to [vote](#) for the Budget Act of 2012.

- **Rudy Salas voted for AB 101, the Budget Act of 2013.** (AB 101, Y: 53 N: 25 NVR: 0, Salas Voted Yes, [California Legislative Information](#), 09/12/13)
 - **The total budget expenditures was \$138.3 billion, a 3% increase from the year prior.** “The state spending plan assumes total budget expenditures of \$138.3 billion from the General Fund and special funds, an increase of 3 percent over 2012–13. This consists of \$96.3 billion from the General Fund and Education Protection Account created by Proposition 30 (2012), as well as \$42 billion from special funds.” (Total State and Federal Funds Spending, The 2013-14 Budget: California Spending Plan, [The California Legislative Analyst’s Office](#), 11/04/13)

- **Rudy Salas voted for SB 154, the Budget Act of 2022.** (SB 154, Y: 56 N: 18 NVR: 4, Salas Voted Yes, [California Legislative Information](#), 06/13/22)
 - **Per the Senate Floor Analysis of SB 154, the bill represents a budget package that authorizes General Fund expenditures of \$239.5 billion.** “This bill contains the 2022 Budget Act. This bill represents a budget package that authorizes General Fund expenditures of \$235.9 billion, and assumes \$243.7 billion in total General Fund resources.” (Senate Floor Analyses, [SB 154](#), 06/13/22)

 - **Governor Newsom signed the legislative version of the 2022-23 state budget, SB 154.** “Governor Gavin Newsom today signed the legislative version of the 2022-23 state budget: SB 154 by Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) – Budget Act of 2022.” (Press Release, Governor Newsom Signs Budget Legislation 6.27.22, [Office of Governor Gavin Newsom](#), 06/27/22)

 - **The 2022-23 budget includes total spending of just over \$300 billion.** “The 2022-23 budget includes total spending of just over \$300 billion, of which an estimated \$235.5 billion is from the General Fund. The budget includes total reserves of \$37.5 billion in 2022-23, including \$3.2 billion in the regular operating reserve. (General Fund spending in 2021-22 in the Legislative budget plan is about \$8 billion less than the Governor proposes, with higher non-recurring spending of a comparable amount in 2022-23.)” (2022-23 State Budget Summary, [Legislative Version Summary Final](#), Accessed 07/11/22)
 - **The adopted budget was \$308 billion dollars.** “California has adopted a \$308 billion budget that will provide refunds to most taxpayers in the state, pour resources into expanding abortion access and extend health care to more undocumented immigrants. Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the bill, and more than two dozen others that guide how the money will be spent, on Thursday, calling it an investment in ‘our core values at a pivotal moment.’” (Alexei Koseff, “California budget approved: What to know about record spending plan,” [CalMatters](#), 06/30/22)

 - **The package included \$9.5 billion in inflation relief funds.** “Gov. Newsom and Democratic legislative leaders have agreed on a \$17 billion relief package that includes \$9.5 billion in inflation relief funds.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)

 - **An estimated 17.5 million California taxpayers will receive between \$200 and \$1,050 by early next year, the amount**

depending on income and family size. “An estimated 17.5 million California taxpayers will receive between \$200 and \$1,050 by early next year. Amounts will depend on income and family size.” (David Lightman, “Experts warn California’s ‘inflation relief’ could actually send high prices even higher,” [The Sacramento Bee](#), 06/28/22)