

Michelle Vallejo has no plan to fight inflation. When asked about her plan for the current crisis, she rambled on and only mentioned inflation when talking about interest rates, student debt, and minimum wage. Now, inflation is at the highest level it has been in decades.

When asked about her plan for inflation, Michelle Vallejo gave practically no answer while speaking for roughly five minutes, hitting on topics like interest rates, student debt, and minimum wage:

- **Vallejo spoke for roughly five minutes after being asked about her plan for fighting inflation and the only thing she directly said regarding inflation was about interest rates and minimum wage.** TRANSCRIPT: “Yeah okay that's a good question um and it is one that's top of mind and one that I feel throughout my whole life I've been thinking about it because even before running for office I used to think um access to economic access economic opportunity was a great equalizer my mind has changed a little bit because now I see access to health care as a greater equalizer than economic opportunity but I really see them going hand in hand right and like I said coming from the idea there was let's create small businesses let's create opportunities let's create a brand let's create a product let's find and identify the needs of the community right not just because you want to sell everybody red shoes and force everyone to have red shoes no let's understand that there's a group of our community that needs red shoes and then there's another group of our community that needs red shoes and I say red shirt blue shoes um because of that I think we need to come back to the basics come back even to implementing um here let's see if we could hear over here because I know it's a little loud I'll scoot over here let's come back to the basics right let's understand um that there are programs that are missing there are relationships that are missing such as apprenticeships right we need to be holding in the youth with those who have more experience with those who've been doing their jobs for decades that have a lot of knowledge and insight that could be shared to the younger generation uh even through leadership I sense that there's gaps that really translate to your local economy and that is connecting the older workforce with the workforce in place right now we're coming in and then those who are getting trained those who are learning about career opportunities something that's really challenging throughout the district is that some of our of our counties are dependent on temporary contracts um so a temporary private prison contract or a temporary border patrol station or a detention center and these are contracts that our community members are asking for because they're like okay this is going to stimulate our local economy but what happens is that because they're focusing on that local that kind of stimulus they're not focusing on asking for their needs for their small businesses or for the other needs in the community so coming in I really want to make sure that we are advocating across the board for better jobs but also to empower our small business sector and to empower our entrepreneurs those who are seeing that there are problems and solving them and figuring that out um one more quick note on you know facing this challenge that we have with the rising um **inflation** and interest rates are just going to keep going up it's going to become more and more challenging for not only people to buy and own homes but to keep their homes um you know even though I'm young I do

remember 2008 I do remember very traumatizing experiences as I was planning and figuring out how to go to college and how to invest into my future so that I could have a career path and maybe I have a pathway to owning some property and having a family of my own and unfortunately what I've realized is I came in to a generation where we really had to sign away hundreds of thousands of dollars of our future wealth in order to have that opportunity so I am advocating um to make sure thank you thank you um and so I am advocating um for greater access to trade school and um for college and university um and also to eliminate ecology debt student debt because that is something that deeply affects many people in our district in our country and when we're faced with **inflation** this is something definitely to consider how we're going to even out the economy for everyone to be able to make the best bet possible for their future one more note on that also is the rising of the minimum wage so we haven't seen a rise in our minimum wage for over a decade we see how **inflation** is rising um so it's long overdue that our local economy needs help in order to make that jump and like I said I'm a small business owner so I come from that perspective as to hey as a small business owner making that big jump from paying people maybe 10 or 12 to 15 across the board seems very challenging and unsustainable for me as a business owner but I know that pressure I understand that complexity so I am very confident that I'll be able to advocate um for those who will be facing those challenges as we're advocating for greater wages as well." (Michelle Vallejo Meet and Greet at Fluff's White House Café, 4/19/2022) ([NRCC YouTube](#))

Editor's Note: "Inflation" is highlighted in the transcript for ease of navigating.

The American Rescue plan exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in four decades:

- **HEADLINE: ". . . 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)

The New York Times

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(Jeanna Smialek, "A regional Fed analysis suggests Biden's stimulus is temporarily stoking inflation.," [The New York Times](#), 10/18/21)

- **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)

- **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 contribute 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)
- **In June 2022, inflation climbed to its highest rate in nearly 41 years.** “U.S. inflation reached 9.1% in June, its highest rate in nearly 41 years, the Labor Department said. The consumer-price index’s pace for June eclipsed May’s annual rate of 8.6% that led Federal Reserve officials to shift to a faster pace of benchmark interest-rate increases, according to meeting minutes released last week.” (Gabriel Rubin, “U.S. Inflation Hits New Four-Decade High of 9.1%,” [Wall Street Journal](#), 7/13/2022)