

Historic inflation is driving up the cost of everything from gas to groceries, and Josh Riley is part of the problem. Riley donated thousands of dollars to President Biden whose reckless spending sent nearly \$1 billion in stimulus checks to prison inmates, including the Boston Marathon bomber.

BACKUP:

Riley donated thousands of dollars in support of Joe Biden’s presidential campaign:

- Riley donated \$2,500 in support of Joe Biden’s presidential campaign.

Federal Contributions from Josh Riley			
Contributor	Candidate/ Committee	Date	Amount
Joshua Riley	Biden Victory Fund	5/25/20	\$1,000
Joshua Riley	Biden for President	5/25/20	\$1,000
Joshua Riley	Biden for President	3/1/20	\$250
TOTAL:			\$2,250
<small>(Receipts: Joshua Riley, Federal Elections Commission, Accessed 7/26/22)</small>			

On January 20, 2021, President Biden announced the American Rescue Plan:

- **On January 20, 2021, President Biden announced the American Rescue Plan.** “Today, President Biden is announcing the American Rescue Plan to change the course of the pandemic, build a bridge towards economic recovery, and invest in racial justice. The American Rescue Plan will address the stark, intergenerational inequities that have worsened in the wake of COVID-19. Researchers at Columbia University estimate that these proposals will cut child poverty in half.” (Briefing Room, “President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan,” [The White House](#), 1/20/21)
 - **HEADLINE: “President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan”** (Briefing Room, “President Biden Announces American Rescue Plan,” [The White House](#), 1/20/21)

H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act, is a partisan coronavirus relief package that cost nearly \$2 trillion:

- **H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act passed the US House of Representatives on March 10, 2021.** (H.R. 1319, [Roll Call #72](#), Passed 220-211: R 0-210, D 220-1, 3/10/21)
- **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)

- **Only one Democrat opposed the American Rescue Plan.** "Democratic Rep. Jared Golden of Maine, who also voted against the original House version, was the sole member to break ranks. Golden argued in late February that many of the provisions in the nearly \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief package were not directly related to the pandemic or should be addressed in stand-alone bills." (Jennifer Shutt, "House sends massive coronavirus relief bill to Biden," [Roll Call](#), 3/10/21)

The American Rescue Plan gave nearly one billion dollars in stimulus checks to prison inmates, including the Boston Marathon bomber terrorist:

- **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)
 - **Senator Tom Cotton accused Democrats of voting for payments to violent criminals instead of solving the pandemic or helping the economy.** "The American Rescue Plan was passed in March. Sen. Tom Cotton said 'every single Democrat' voted for payments to 'violent criminals,' in a statement to Fox News published on Friday He added: 'Sending cash to murderers and rapists in prison has nothing to do with solving the pandemic or improving the economy. Now, the same people who sent hundreds of millions of dollars as gifts to these inmates want to spend trillions more in an even bigger and more partisan bill.'" (Kevin Shalvey, "Stimulus checks totaling almost \$800 million went to incarcerated people, IRS records show," [Business Insider](#), 7/31/21)
 - **The American Rescue Plan sent stimulus checks to approximately 645,000 people who were incarcerated at the start of 2021.** "The IRS reported that the money went to approximately 645,000 people who were incarcerated at the start of the year, according to FOIA records provided to the Washington Examiner by the NRSC." (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)
- **The Boston Marathon bomber, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, received a \$1,400 stimulus check.** "A U.S. District Court judge agreed to let federal prosecutors use convicted Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's \$1,400 COVID-19 stimulus payment, as well as other money held in his inmate trust account, to help pay the millions of dollars he was ordered to pay his victims, The Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. In a filing Wednesday, the U.S. attorney's office in Boston asked a judge to order the federal Bureau of Prisons to turn the money over to the Clerk of the Court 'as payment towards his outstanding criminal monetary penalties, including unpaid special assessment and restitution.' In addition to the stimulus payment, Tsarnaev, who's being held at a maximum security prison in Florence, Colorado, has received money from dozens of sources during his incarceration, including

the federal public defender's office and regular payments from individuals living in Indiana, New Jersey and Maryland, according to the filing by acting U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, Nathaniel Mendell.” (Associated Press, “Judge will allow Boston Marathon bomber's \$1,400 stimulus check, other funds to go to victims,” [KTLA75](#), 1/6/22)

- **Tsarnaev's actions have been described as a terrorist attack.** “On April 15, 2013, Tamerlan and his younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, attacked the Boston Marathon. It was one of the worst terrorist attacks on U.S. soil since 9/11.” (“Unanswered Questions About Tamerlan Tsarnaev,” [WBUR](#), 7/10/17)

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](#).*

- **HEADLINE: “Inflation hit 9.1% in June, highest rate in more than 40 years,”** (Irina Ivanova, “Inflation hit 9.1% in June, highest rate in more than 40 years,” [CBS News](#), 7/13/22)
- **HEADLINE: “U.S. inflation reached a new 40-year high in June of 9.1 percent,”** (Associated Press, “U.S. inflation reached a new 40-year high in June of 9.1 percent,” [Politico](#), 7/13/22)
- **Inflation “soared 9.1 percent” in June 2022, “the biggest 12-month increase since 1981.”** “Consumer prices soared 9.1 percent compared with a year earlier, the government said Wednesday, the biggest 12-month increase since 1981, and up from an 8.6 percent jump in 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.” (Associated Press, “U.S. inflation reached a new 40-year high in June of 9.1 percent,” [Politico](#), 7/13/22)
- **HEADLINE: “Inflation Spiked 9.1% In June—Hitting New 40-Year High As Price Surge Fuels Recession Fears,”** (Jonathan Ponciano, “Inflation Spiked 9.1% In June—Hitting New 40-Year High As Price Surge Fuels Recession Fears,” [Forbes](#), 7/13/22)
- **Inflation in June 2022 rose 9.1% “hitting a worse-than-expected 40-year high after an unprecedented surge in gas prices.”** “As rapid inflation fuels growing recession fears, new data showed consumer prices rose 9.1% in the 12 months ending in June, hitting a worse-than-expected 40-year high after an unprecedented surge in gas prices.” (Jonathan Ponciano, “Inflation Spiked 9.1% In June—Hitting New 40-Year High As Price Surge Fuels Recession Fears,” [Forbes](#), 7/13/22)
- **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)

- **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 the past year inflation in America has reached 13-, 30-, 39-, 40- year highs:

- **In the past year inflation in America has reached 13-, 30-, 39- and 40- year highs.**

<u>US Inflation by Month since January 2021</u>			
<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Inflation Rate</u>	<u>Significance</u>
2022	August	8.3%	Ties Previous 40-year high
2022	July	8.5%	Ties Previous 40-year high
2022	June	9.1%	40-year high
2022	May	8.6%	40-year high
2022	April	8.3%	Ties Previous 40-year high
2022	March	8.5%	40-year high
2022	February	7.9%	40-year high
2022	January	7.5%	40-year high
2021	December	7%	40-year high
2021	November	6.8%	39-year high
2021	October	6.2%	30-year high
2021	September	5.4%	13-year high

2021	August	5.3%	Ties Previous 13-year high
2021	July	5.4%	13-year high
2021	June	5.4%	13-year high
2021	May	5%	13-year high
2021	April	4.2%	13-year high
2021	March	2.6%	N/A
2021	February	1.7%	N/A
2021	January	1.4%	N/A
(Consumer Price Index - June 2022, US Dept of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics , 7/18/22)			

Additional government spending caused a rise in the prices of good including groceries:

- **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?,” [AP](#), 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?,” [AP](#), 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,” [Washington Post](#), 12/10/21)

In 2022, grocery prices are up over 10% and high food prices affect nearly every household”:

- **In 2022, grocery prices are up over 10% and high food prices affect nearly every household.”** “The government’s latest Consumer Price Index report released Tuesday shows overall food prices continued to rise, by 0.8 percent in August. That’s slightly down from the month before, but food prices were up 11.4 percent for the year, the largest yearly increase since 1979. Overall, the inflation measure remained high, rising by 0.1 percent in August, although the price of gas continued to decrease. High food prices affect nearly every household and have proven to be a major hindrance to efforts by the White House and Democrats to shake off inflation-induced political woes. But Republicans have stepped up their attempts to use the issue to hammer the administration and congressional Democrats.” (Garrett Downs, “Gets ready for a food fight: High grocery costs are here to stay,” [Politico](#), 9/13/22)

Dollar Tree, the nation’s largest dollar store chain, was forced to increase prices from \$1 to \$1.25 due to “merchandise cost increases:”

- **In November 2021, Dollar Tree announced it would “raise prices from \$1 to \$1.25 on the majority of its products by the first quarter of 2022.”** “The company – one of America's last remaining true dollar stores – said Tuesday it will raise prices from \$1 to \$1.25 on the majority of its products by the first quarter of 2022. The change is a sign of the pressures low-cost retailers face holding down prices during a period of rising inflation.” (“Nathaniel Meyersohn, “Dollar Tree Hikes Prices 25%. Most Items Will Cost \$1.25,” [CNN Business](#), 11/23/21)
 - **“The change is a sign of the pressures low-cost retailers face holding down prices during a period of rising inflation.”** (“Nathaniel Meyersohn, “Dollar Tree Hikes Prices 25%. Most Items Will Cost \$1.25,” [CNN Business](#), 11/23/21)
- **Dollar Tree was forced to increase prices due to “historically high merchandise cost increases.”** “Dollar Tree also said that hiking prices will help the company increase its profit margins by ‘mitigating historically high merchandise cost increases,’ including freight and distribution costs, as well as wage increases.” (“Nathaniel Meyersohn, “Dollar Tree Hikes Prices 25%. Most Items Will Cost \$1.25,” [CNN Business](#), 11/23/21)
- **Since 1986, Dollar Tree has sold products at \$1.** “Dollar Tree has sold products at \$1 for 35 years and was the last of the major dollar store chains to actually be a dollar store.” (“Nathaniel Meyersohn, “Dollar Tree Hikes Prices 25%. Most Items Will Cost \$1.25,” [CNN Business](#), 11/23/21)
- **Dollar Tree is the largest dollar store chain in the United States.** “Dollar Tree Inc. announced that it has completed its \$8.5 billion acquisition of Family Dollar Stores Inc. Dollar Tree also named a new president and COO of Family Dollar. The combined company will operate about 13,000 stores, making it the largest dollar store chain in the U.S. by store count.” (“Dollar Tree Just Created The Nation's Biggest Dollar Store Chain,” [Chain Store Age](#), 7/6/15)