

Melanie Stansbury supported Biden's nearly \$2 trillion spending bill that gave nearly \$1 billion in stimulus checks to prison inmates, including the Boston Marathon bomber terrorist, while ballooning inflation costs New Mexico families more than \$8,000 per year in higher prices.

BACKUP:

Melanie Stansbury supported Joe Biden's nearly \$2 trillion coronavirus relief package, which sent nearly \$1 billion in stimulus checks to prison inmates, including the Boston Marathon bomber terrorist:

- In May 2021, Melanie Stansbury said that she was “proud to support Biden’s American Rescue Plan.” “What is your opinion of the coronavirus response packages, including the American Rescue Plan, which was signed by President Biden? Is there anything you would have done differently? I’m proud to support Biden’s American Rescue Plan, which is providing support to hardworking New Mexicans, state, tribal, and local governments, schools, and help combating the pandemic. In Congress, I will work to rebuild our economy, bring home meaningful jobs, and support critical infrastructure like broadband, water and clean energy.” (ABQJOURNAL NEWS STAFF, “Q&A: 1st Congressional District Candidate Melanie Stansbury,” [Albuquerque Journal](#), 5/1/21)
 - 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)
 - The White House describes the American Rescue Plan as “President Biden’s plan.”



(“American Rescue Plan,” [The White House](#), Accessed 8/10/22)

- 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 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)

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)

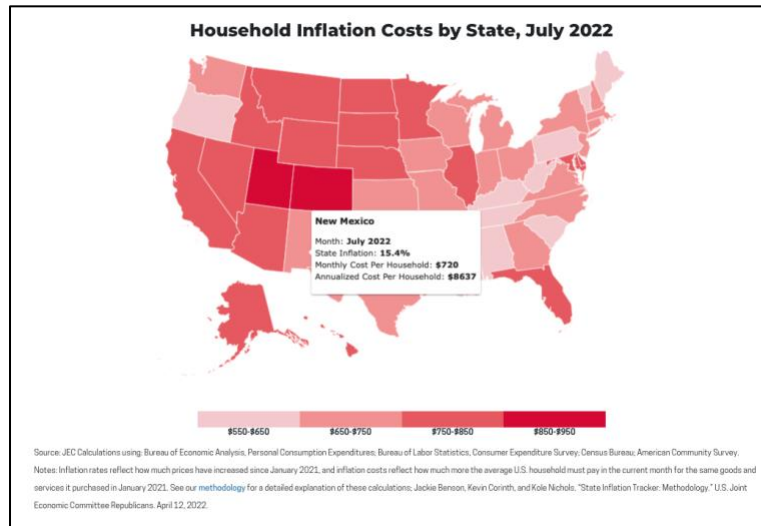
- Researchers found that the American Rescue Plan might raise the vacancy-to-unemployment ratio close to its historical peak in 1968, fueling inflation. “Based on the package’s size and using historical evidence on how fiscal spending affects the labor market, the researchers found that the American 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)

Due to soaring inflation, the average U.S. household has to spend thousands of dollars extra this year compared to last year for the same goods. The estimated cost of inflation to the average New Mexico is more than \$8,000:

- **In July 2022, KOB reported that “there’s no escaping the rising cost of almost everything these days as inflation across the country continues to soar.”** “There’s no escaping the rising cost of almost everything these days as inflation across the country continues to soar. Reilly White, associate professor of finance at the University of New Mexico, said inflation has grown 9.1% over the past year – a steep increase that hasn’t been seen in decades.” (Chase Golightly, “Inflation reaches 40-year high,” [KOB](#), 7/16/22)
- **Each month, coinciding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ release of the Consumer Price Index, the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) Republicans release an updated State Inflation Tracker which estimates how much inflation increases costs for American families in each state.** “Americans are facing the highest inflation rates in decades, making it harder for them to afford everyday goods and more expensive to raise their families. Each month coinciding with the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ release of the Consumer Price Index, JEC Republicans’ State Inflation Tracker estimates how much inflation increases costs for American families in each state and how the drivers of inflation continue to vary across the country. Specifically, we ask: how much more must the average household pay today to maintain the same standard of living it achieved in January 2021, the last time inflation was within historical norms?” (United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, “State Inflation Tracker: July 2022,” [Analysis](#), 8/10/22)
 - **According to the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) Republican staff, prices increased 13.3 percent from January 2021 to July 2022, costing the average American household \$717 in July 2022 alone.** “On average, prices did not increase from June 2022 to July 2022. However, prices have increased 13.3 percent from January 2021 to July 2022, costing the average American household \$717 last month alone.” (United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, “State Inflation Tracker: July 2022,” [Analysis](#), 8/10/22)
 - **“Even if prices stop increasing altogether, the inflation that has already occurred will cost the Average American household \$8,607 over the next 12 months.”** (United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, “State Inflation Tracker: July 2022,” [Analysis](#), 8/10/22)

- According to calculations by the JEC’s Republican staff, the annualized cost of inflation to New Mexico households is **\$8,637**. (United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, “State Inflation Tracker: July 2022,” [Analysis](#), 8/10/22)



(United States Congress Joint Economic Committee, “State Inflation Tracker: July 2022,” [Analysis](#), 8/10/22)

- According to March 2022 estimates by Bloomberg Economics, inflation means that the average U.S. household has to spend an extra \$5,200 this year compared to 2021 for the same consumption basket. “Inflation will mean the average U.S. household has to spend an extra \$5,200 this year (\$433 per month) compared to last year for the same consumption basket, according estimates by Bloomberg Economics. The excess savings built up over the pandemic, and increases in wages, will cushion those costs, and allow spending to expand at a decent pace this year. But accelerated depletion of savings will increase the urgency for those staying on the sidelines to join the labor force, and the resulting increase in labor supply will likely dampen wage growth.” (Andrew Husby and Anna Wong, “U.S. Households Face \$5,200 Inflation Tax This Year,” [Bloomberg](#), 3/29/22)
- According to example from an associate professor of finance at the University of New Mexico, a household with an income of \$50,000 a year is spending on average roughly \$4,500 more this year than last year. “There’s no escaping the rising cost of almost everything these days as inflation across the country continues to soar. Reilly White, associate professor of finance at the University of New Mexico, said inflation has grown 9.1% over the past year – a steep increase that hasn’t been seen in decades. ‘We have to go back 40 years,’ White said. ‘We have to blow off the dust on our old economic reports to get back to numbers this high.’ White gave an example to put that into perspective. ‘If we look at, say, a household income of 50,000 dollars over the course of a year, that means you are spending overall on average roughly 4,500 dollars more this year than you were last year,’ he said.” (Chase Golightly, “Inflation reaches 40-year high,” [KOB](#), 7/16/22)