

After nearly 20 years in Washington DC, Jon Tester has become just another big spender. He's voted to raise the debt ceiling 14 times and backed Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion dollar spending plan that led to the record high inflation that crushed Montana families.

Jon Tester has been in Congress for 17 years.

- **Jon Tester served in the Montana State Senate from 1999 to 2006 before entering the U.S. Senate in 2007.** “TESTER, Jon, a Senator from Montana; born in Havre, Mont., on August 21, 1956; graduated College of Great Falls 1978, farmer; teacher; member, Big Sandy school board 1983-1992 (chairman 1986-1991); Montana State senate 1999-2006, serving as minority whip 2001-2003, minority leader 2003-2005, president 2005-2006; elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 2006 for the term commencing January 3, 2007; reelected in 2012, and again in 2018 for the term ending January 3, 2025; chair, Committee on Indian Affairs (One Hundred Thirteenth Congress [February 12, 2014-January 3, 2015]); chair, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (2015-2017), Committee on Veterans' Affairs (One Hundred Seventeenth and One Hundred Eighteenth Congresses).” (Jon Tester, [Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress](#), Accessed 2/2/24)

Jon Tester has voted to raise the debt ceiling 14 times.

- **In 2018, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 1892.** (H.R. 1892, [Vote Number 31](#), Motion Agreed to: 71-28, Tester voted Yea, 2/9/18)
 - **H.R. 1892 raised the debt limit.** “McConnell, R-Ky., motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill with McConnell amendment no. 1930 that would provide funding for federal government operations and services at current levels through March 23, 2018. The bill, as amended, would increase defense spending caps to \$629 billion for fiscal 2018 and \$647 billion for fiscal 2019, and would increase non-defense spending caps by \$63 billion in fiscal 2018 and \$68 billion in fiscal 2019. It would suspend the debt ceiling through March 1, 2019, and would provide \$89.3 billion in emergency supplemental funding including \$23.5 billion in funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Disaster Relief Fund, \$28 billion in funding to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Fund, and \$4.9 billion in additional Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It would authorize funding for community health centers through fiscal 2019 and would provide for an additional authorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program from fiscal 2023 to fiscal 2027. The underlying bill would allow the governor of a state, territory,

possession or the mayor of the District of Columbia to order that the United States flag be flown at half-staff to honor the death of a first responder who dies while serving in the line of duty.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 31, [CQ Summary](#), 2/9/18)

- **In 2017, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 601.** (H.R. 601, [Vote Number 192](#), Motion agreed to: 80-17, Tester voted Yea, 9/7/17)
 - **H.R. 601 raised the debt limit.** “McConnell, R-Ky., motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill with a Senate amendment, no. 808, that would make available \$15.25 billion in emergency supplemental funding for fiscal 2017 to partially cover the costs of responding to multiple natural disasters, including Hurricane Harvey. The amendment would suspend the public debt limit from the bill's date of enactment until Dec. 8, 2017 and would provide for government operations to be funded at fiscal 2017 levels until Dec. 8.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 192, [CQ Summary](#), 9/7/17)
- **In 2015, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 1314.** (H.R. 1314, [Vote Number 294](#), Motion Agreed To: 64-35, Tester voted Yea, 10/30/15)
 - **H.R. 1314 raised the debt limit.**

Spending Cap and Debt Limit Increase - Motion to Concur

Oct. 30, 2015

Senate Roll Call Vote 294

[HR 1314](#)

Motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate

amendment to the bill that would suspend the debt limit until March 15, 2017 and increase the discretionary spending cap for fiscal 2016 by \$50 billion and for fiscal 2017 by \$30 billion, with the increases split equally between defense and non-defense spending. Offsets through mandatory spending cuts and revenue increases would include increasing premiums companies pay to the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation to insure private pension plans, the sale of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and changes to the federal crop insurance program. It would prevent an estimated 52 percent premium increase for certain Medicare beneficiaries and instead provide for a lower increase, and would make changes to keep the Social Security disability insurance trust solvent until 2022.

(Senate Roll Call Vote 294, [CQ Summary](#), 10/30/15)

- **In 2014, Jon Tester voted in favor of S. 540.** (S. 540, [Vote Number 33](#), Cloture Motion Agreed to: 67-31, Tester voted Yea, 2/12/14)
 - **S. 540 raised the debt limit.** “Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill that would suspend the current statutory limit on federal borrowing authority for one year, through March 15, 2015.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 33, [CQ Summary](#), 2/12/14)

- **In 2013, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 2775.** (H.R. 2775, [Vote Number 219](#), Bill Passed: 81-18, Tester voted Yea, 10/16/13)
 - **H.R. 2775 raised the debt limit.** “Passage of the bill that would provide continuing appropriations for government operations through Jan. 15, 2014, reflecting an annual discretionary level of about \$986 billion. It would allow federal borrowing to continue through Feb. 7, 2014, after the president certifies that the U.S. Treasury cannot pay its obligations and would set up an expedited process for Congress to consider resolutions of disapproval for debt limit increases included in the 2011 Budget Control Act. It also would provide for retroactive pay for federal employees who worked through the government shutdown that began on Oct. 1, 2013 and for workers furloughed during that time. The bill also would require the Health and Human Services Department to verify the income qualifications of people who apply for tax subsidies under the 2010 health care overhaul.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 219, [CQ Summary](#), 10/16/13)

- **In 2013, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 325.** (H.R. 325, [Vote Number 11](#), Bill Passed: 64-34, Tester voted Yea, 1/31/13)
 - **H.R. 325 raised the debt limit.** “Passage of the bill that would suspend the limit on government borrowing through May 18, 2013, and then automatically increase the current \$16.4 trillion ceiling to accommodate additional debt accumulated through that date. It also would suspend the salary payments to members in either chamber that does not adopt a fiscal 2014 budget resolution by April 15, 2013. Salaries of members of a chamber that do not adopt a budget by that time would be placed into an escrow account and would not be released until the chamber adopted a budget or until the last day of the 113th Congress, in January 2015.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 11, [CQ Summary](#), 1/31/13)

- **In 2011, Jon Tester voted in favor of S. 365.** (S. 365, [Vote Number 123](#), Motion Agreed To: 74-26, Tester voted Yea, 8/2/11)
 - **S. 365 raised the debt limit.** “Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill that would provide a process to reduce the deficit by up to \$2.4 trillion. The measure would allow the president to raise the debt limit immediately by \$400 billion, with an additional \$500 billion subject to a resolution of disapproval. It would set discretionary spending caps that would reduce the deficit by \$917 billion in fiscal 2012 through 2021 and establish a firewall between security and non-security spending for fiscal 2012 and 2013. It would establish a bipartisan, bicameral committee tasked with making recommendations to reduce the deficit by \$1.5 trillion. It would require across-the-board cuts to non-exempt discretionary and mandatory accounts by up to

\$1.2 trillion over fiscal 2013 through 2021 if committee reductions totaling \$1.2 trillion were not enacted. The measure would require Congress to vote on a balanced-budget constitutional amendment by the end of 2011. It also would provide for an additional debt limit increase of \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion, subject to a resolution of disapproval.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 123, [CQ Summary](#), 8/2/11)

- **In 2010, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.J. Res. 45.** (H.J. Res. 45, [Vote Number 14](#), Joint Resolution Passed: 60-39, Tester voted Yea, 1/28/10)
 - **H.J. Res. 45 raised the debt limit.** “Passage of the joint resolution that would increase the statutory debt limit by \$1.9 trillion to \$14.29 trillion. It also would establish a statutory requirement that new tax and mandatory spending legislation be budget neutral, enforced by automatic across-the-board spending cuts in non-exempt programs if the pay-as-you-go tally at the end of the year shows a deficit. It would require the Government Accountability Office to investigate areas with duplicative goals and activities within the government.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 14, [CQ Summary](#), 1/28/10)

- **In 2009, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 4314.** (H.R. 4314, [Vote Number 397](#), Passed: 60-39, Tester voted Yea, 12/24/09)
 - **H.R. 4314 raised the debt limit.** “Passage of the bill that would increase the federal debt limit by \$290 billion to \$12.4 trillion.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 397, [CQ Summary](#), 12/24/09)

- **In 2009, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 1.** (H.R. 1, [Vote Number 64](#), Conference Report Agreed to: 60-38, Tester voted Yea, 2/13/09)
 - **H.R. 1 raised the debt limit.** “Adoption of the conference report on the bill that would provide an estimated \$787.2 billion in tax cuts and spending increases to stimulate the economy, plus provisions to prevent the alternative minimum tax from applying to millions of additional taxpayers in 2009 and to increase the ceiling on federal borrowing by \$789 billion to \$12.104 trillion. The tax provisions, estimated to cost \$211.8 billion through 2019, would include extending current accelerated depreciation allowances for businesses, suspending taxes on the first \$2,400 of unemployment benefits per recipient for 2009, and expanding a number of other individual tax credits, including the first-time homebuyer tax credit to \$8,000. Mandatory spending increases, expected to cost \$267 billion through 2019, include an extension of unemployment and welfare benefits, Medicaid payments to states, health insurance assistance for individuals and grants for health information technology. Discretionary spending, estimated at \$308.3 billion through 2019

and include grants to state and local schools and funds for public housing, transportation, and nutrition assistance.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 64, [CQ Summary](#), 2/13/09)

- **In 2008, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 3221.** (H.R. 3211, [Vote Number 186](#), Motion Agreed To: 72-13, Tester voted Yea, 7/26/08)
 - **H.R. 3221 raised the debt limit.** “Reid, D-Nev., motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the House amendments to the Senate amendment. The House amendment would grant authority to the Treasury Department to extend new credit and buy stock in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. It would create an independent regulator for the two mortgage giants and the Federal Home Loan Bank System. It would overhaul the Federal Housing Administration and allow it to insure up to \$300 billion worth of new, refinanced loans for struggling mortgage borrowers. It also includes a \$7,500 tax credit for some first-time homebuyers, higher loan limits for FHA-backed loans, a standard tax deduction for property taxes and revenue-raisers to offset part of the costs. It also would authorize \$3.9 billion in grants to states and localities to purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed properties, and increase the federal debt limit to \$10.6 trillion.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 186, [CQ Summary](#), 7/26/08)
- **VIDEO: In a 2018 Senate debate, Tester defended voting to raise the debt ceiling.** “And being an auditor for the state, he should know what the debt ceiling is. Obviously, he doesn’t. The money has already been spent, Auditor. If you don’t increase the debt ceiling, you default. You should know that. You’re a land developer. That’s the kind of stuff that happens when you do not pay your bills, and the debt ceiling is simply paying the bills.” (2018 Montana Senate Debate, [C-Span](#), 9/26/18)
- **On June 1, 2023, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 3746.** (H.R. 3746, [Vote Number 146](#), Bill Passed: 63-36, Tester voted Yea, 6/1/23)
 - **H.R. 3746 increased the federal debt limit.** “This act increases the federal debt limit, establishes new discretionary spending limits, rescinds unobligated funds, expands work requirements for federal programs, and modifies other requirements related to the federal budget process.” (Summary: H.R. 3746, [Congress.gov](#), Accessed: 8/10/23)
- **In 2021, Jon Tester voted in favor of S.J. Res. 33.** (S.J. Res. 33, [Vote Number 498](#), Passed: 50-49, Tester voted Yea, 12/14/21)
 - **S.J. Res. 33 raised the debt limit.** “Passage of the joint resolution that would increase the statutory limit on federal debt by \$25 trillion.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 498, [CQ Summary](#), 12/14/21)

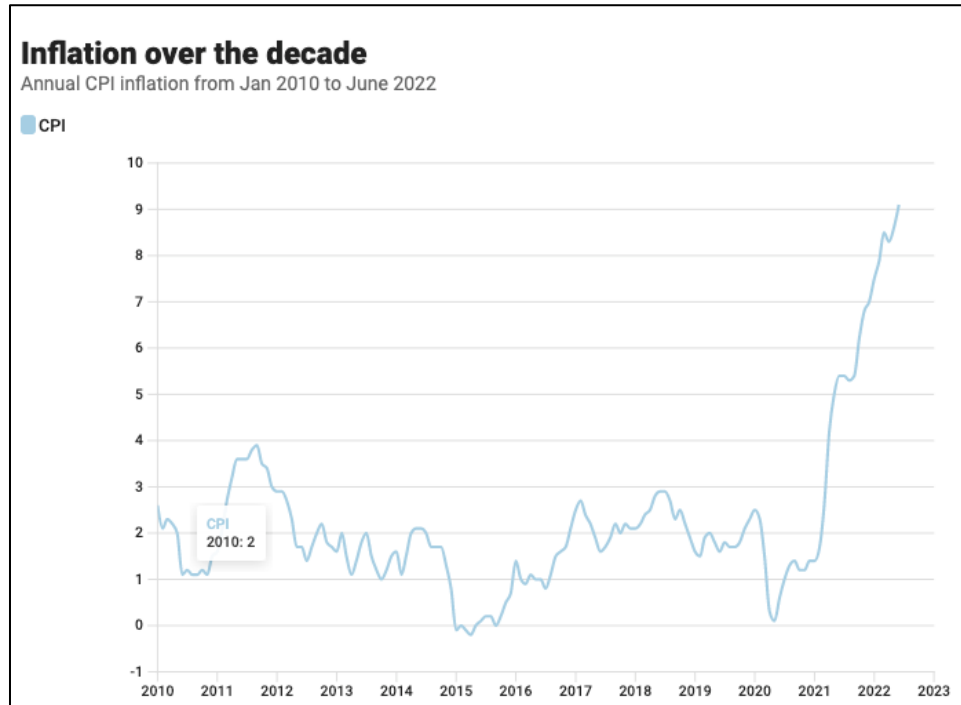
- **In 2021, Jon Tester voted in favor of S. 1310.** (S. 1310, [Vote Number 412](#), Passed: 50-48, Tester voted Yea, 10/7/21)
 - **S. 1310 raised the debt limit.** “Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to concur in the House amendment to the bill with the Schumer substitute amendment no. 3847 that would increase the statutory limit on federal debt by \$480 billion.” (Senate Roll Call Vote 412, [CQ Summary](#), 10/7/21)
- **In 2021, Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 5303.** (H.R. 5305, [Vote Number 397](#), Passed: 65-35, Tester voted Yea, 9/30/21)
 - **H.R. 5303 raised the debt limit.** (“Does Your Member Of Congress Vote With Or Against Biden?” [FiveThirtyEight](#), Accessed 4/24/23)

Jon Tester voted in favor of H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act, a partisan coronavirus relief package that cost nearly \$2 trillion and exacerbated inflation, causing it to reach its highest point in over four decades.

- **Tester voted for H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act.** (H.R. 1319, [Vote Number 110](#), Passed 50-49, TESTER voted Yea, 3/6/21)
- **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)
 - **Democrat Jared Golden of Maine was the sole Democrat to oppose 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)

Editor’s Note: To see most recent inflation numbers, please see the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [monthly data](#).

- **In June 2022, inflation reached a four decade high.** “The prices of gas, food and most other goods and services jumped in May, raising inflation to a new four-decade high and giving American households no respite from rising costs.” (“US inflation at new 40-year high as price increases spread,” [Associated Press](#), 6/10/22)



(“Inflation surges 9.1% in June, accelerating more than expected to new 40-year high,” [Fox News](#), 7/13/22)

- **“The Labor Department said the increases for food and energy were the fastest 12-month gains in at least 13 years.”** “The Labor Department said the increases for food and energy were the fastest 12-month gains in at least 13 years.” (Megan Henney, “US Inflation Surges To 39-Year High As Consumer Prices Soar,” [Fox News](#), 12/10/21)
- **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,” [NYMag](#), 6/8/21)

Inflation is crushing families across America and Montana families experiencing among the highest inflation rates, costing them an additional \$500 each month in household expenses.

- **“Inflation is crushing rural America and driving some people to consider moving closer to cities in an effort to ease the financial stress, according to the latest analysis from one expert.”** (Ben Abrams, “Inflation is crushing rural America and may even drive people to the cities,” [NPR](#), 7/25/22)
 - **“Financial well-being is deteriorating overall.”** “Financial well-being is deteriorating overall, according to a recent ‘Making Ends Meet’ report by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.” (Jessica Dickler, “Amid inflation, more middle-class Americans struggle to make ends meet,” [CNBC](#), 1/18/23)
- **“The average American family has experienced a loss of roughly \$6,000 in annual wages, thanks to inflation during President Biden’s tenure, according to an analysis shared with FOX Business.”** (Thomas Catenacci, “Average American family has now lost \$6,000 in annual wages under Biden due to inflation,” [Fox Business](#), 10/14/22)
- **Montana families were experiencing the highest inflation rates, costing them an additional \$500 each month in household expenses.** “At the start of the year, the

Congressional joint economic committee shared an interactive map that shows that Americans in the Mountain region—which includes Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming—are experiencing the highest inflation rates, with more than \$500 a month in added household costs in January. But across the US, families are experiencing a rise of at least \$350 per month in cost-of-living expenses.” (Nafeesah Allen, “Families Feel the Effects of Inflation as a Recession Nears,” [Parents](#), 10/28/22)