

The Democrats' Spending Spree

The U.S. Senate is almost ready to vote on a \$1.1+/- trillion infrastructure package. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2,702 pages) dedicates resources to repair, maintain and upgrade our nation's physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, airports, waterways, grid resilience and broadband internet, public transit and electric vehicle charging stations.

The legislation, if enacted, would be the largest U.S. infrastructure investment in decades. But paying for the package is a challenge after senators rejected raising revenue from new sources, like an increased gas tax. Instead, the package will be financed from funding sources like untapped Covid-19 relief aid, unemployment assistance that was turned back by some states and relying on projected future economic growth.

But it doesn't end there. If the infrastructure bill passes, the path would be cleared for a \$3.5 trillion American Jobs Plan (AJP), also known as the "human infrastructure" bill, supported by the Democrats, acting without Republican support.

The "human infrastructure" bill includes subsidies for everything from buying a home to going to college to paying for Internet service. Reuters provides this sneak preview of the package's contents:

- 14 years of free education, including two years of free community college; plus two years of free, universal preschool
- Boost in Pell Grants to \$8,000 a year from \$6,500
- Job training and apprenticeships in public health, childcare, manufacturing, information technology, clean energy and union jobs
- Larger federal scholarships for future teachers
- \$100 billion in school infrastructure improvements
- Access to quality, affordable childcare with more centers on college campuses and new, upgraded facilities across the country. Middle-class families will pay no more than 7 percent of their income for child care up to age five. Poor families pay nothing.
- Higher wages and benefits for childcare workers
- 12 weeks of paid family/medical leave
- Extension of the expanded Child Tax Credit through 2025
- Free meals for millions more schoolchildren
- Expanded homecare for older and disabled Americans
- Expansion of Medicare to include dental, vision and hearing coverage
- More pay for homecare workers
- Increasing and improving affordable housing supplies by building and rehabilitating more than two million homes
- Money for historically black colleges and universities
- Tax cuts for investors in clean energy technologies
- Transition to a "fully clean and reliable" power grid
- Implementation of a Civilian Climate Corps to make communities "more resilient against extreme weather"
- Advancing environmental justice by addressing pollution
- Grants for local projects, such as replacing streetlights with LED bulbs and boosting energy efficiency in homes and schools.

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When Republicans Vote

Progressive lawmakers and liberal groups insist the expansion of the federal welfare state will help struggling families and benefit minorities to improve their economic status. The price tag, however, could be as much as \$6 trillion, according to Senate Budget Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders.

The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board has found that the so-called \$3.5 trillion human infrastructure plan is actually more than five trillion. And, that's in addition to the \$1.1 trillion infrastructure package.

That's why "Democrats are trying to get this passed before Republicans can read the whole thing, and the GOP is resisting," according to The Washington Times.

The plan faces opposition from the right because it would increase the size and scope of the federal government. "The ideas being discussed would be "one of the largest expansions of the welfare state in history," said Matt Dickerson, the director of federal budget studies at the conservative Heritage Foundation. "It would expand existing and create new programs ranging from government child care to 'free' college, add millions to the rolls, and result in half of working-age American households receiving entitlements. All of this just puts government politicians and bureaucrats in control of more aspects of peoples' lives and undermines our families and communities."

Overall, Democrats have provided few details of what they do plan to include in this budget proposal. And it's interesting to note that some categories include this caveat: "The duration of each program's enactment will be determined based on scoring and Committee input." What does this piece of Washington-speak mean? According to the Wall Street Journal Editorial Board Report, "It's an admission that the budget will be built on phony assumptions and gimmicks."

As the Wall Street Journal Editorial Board Report concludes: "Any way you add it up, Democrats are attempting to pass the biggest expansion of government since the 1960s with narrow majorities and no electoral mandate. No wonder they want to disguise its real cost."

What's Next?

Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the U.S. House of Representatives has said she will "hold a bipartisan infrastructure bill unless/until Senate Democrats ram through a second, \$3.5 trillion "human" infrastructure bill." She wants both bills.

The "Human Infrastructure" bill has huge implications for the national debt and the economy's future. Expansion of the federal government's power and creation of many new welfare benefits may be difficult to undo. According to Karl Rove, "If Republicans get this across to voters, it will add to the GOP's gains in the 2022 midterms."

What Can You Do?

The U.S. National Debt as of August 4 is \$28.4 trillion – that's \$86,050 per person. The infrastructure bill may be brought to a vote tomorrow. The American Jobs Plan or "human infrastructure" bill may be brought to a vote in the United States Senate shortly thereafter. Call or email your Senators and ask that they vote "No", and ask others to do the same.

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey

Email: <https://www.toomey.senate.gov/contact/email-senator-toomey>

Telephone: 814-266-5970 or 202-224-4254

Operation Wildfire: Good Things Happen When Republicans Vote

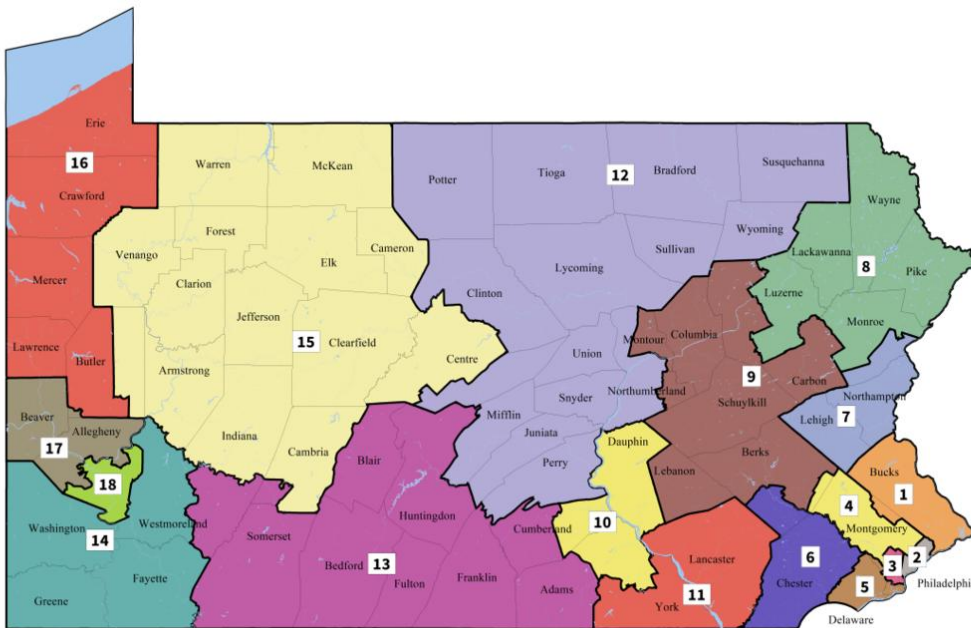
U.S. Senator Bob Casey

Email: <https://www.casey.senate.gov/contact/share>

Telephone: 814-357-0314 or 202-224-6324

If both the bipartisan infrastructure bill and the American Jobs Plan or “human” infrastructure bill are passed by the U.S. Senate, the bills will advance to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Call or email your U.S. Representative and ask that he/she vote “No” on the American Jobs Plan. Because Operation Wildfire material is being sent to counties across our Commonwealth, we’ve included the current Congressional District map and names of Pennsylvania’s elected representatives.



1 – Brian Fitzpatrick

2 – Brendan Boyle

3 – Dwight Evans

4 – Madeleine Dean

5 – Mary Gay Scanlon

6 – Chrissy Houlahan

7 – Susan Wild

8 – Matt Cartwright

9 – Daniel Meuser

10 – Scott Perry

11 – Lloyd Smucker

12 – Fred Keller

13 – John Joyce

14 – Guy Reschenthaler

15 – Glenn “GT” Thompson

16 – Mike Kelly

17 – Connor Lamb

18 – Mike Doyle

Centre County is split between two (2) U.S. Representatives; here’s their contact information:

U.S. Representative Fred Keller

Email: <https://keller.house.gov/zip-code-lookup?form=/contact/email-me>

Telephone: (570) 322-3961

U.S. Representative Glenn “GT” Thompson

Email: <https://thompson.house.gov/contact>

Telephone: (814) 353-0215