

STATEMENT

In Just The Last Two Years, The Same Basket Of Goods Has Increased More Than \$1,200 For Arizonans To Purchase. With Record High Inflation, Kirsten Engel Wants To Raise Taxes On Middle-Class Families Already Struggling To Get By. She Even Endorsed Biden’s Spending Bills That Made Inflation Worse And Said, “It’s Exactly What We Need, And What I Will Keep Making Happen.”

Verification

Engel Proposed Hiking Taxes So That More Money Is Paid Into The Social Security System And Unemployment Fund

VIDEO: In September 2020, Engel Suggested “Legislation” Requiring Gig Workers To “Actually Put Money Into” The Unemployment Fund. ENGEL: “They’re not feeding their families. They’re not putting clothes on their kid’s back. We do need to have a social safety net for everyone in our economy, and the gig workers are becoming a very large part of it. We could create something. That’s a great idea. I’ll work with you on that legislation to have a gig economy where they do actually put money into it.” HICKS: “Right. I believe you have to have stake into something before you can get something out of something. You never get something for nothing.” ENGEL: “That just shows we’re got to fix the system.” (Primary Election Debate, [Citizens Clean Elections Commission](#), 9/16/20) minute 45:15

- **VIDEO: Engel Said That “The Money Is There In The Unemployment Trust Fund” But That, “If We Run Out,” “We Can Always Ask Our Employers To Spend A Little Bit More To Prop Up That Fund.”** ENGEL: “Rents are rising in Arizona, especially in our cities. You’ve got car insurance. You’ve got to get clothes and food. And that is just not a survivable wage. We hope that this pandemic — we will conquer it soon. But right now we are dealing with a lot of people out of work and what we need to do is to make sure that they have the resources they need. The money is there. The money is there in the Unemployment Trust Fund. If we run out of that after a few months, we have CARES Act money. And, as a last resort, we can always ask our employers to spend a little bit more to prop up that Fund. So, I think that will get the money into our economy.” (Primary Election Debate, [Citizens Clean Elections Commission](#), 9/16/20) minute 23:31

In August 2023, Engel Said That Social Security “Faces Insolvency In About A Decade” And Recommended “Requiring The Wealthy To Pay Their Fair Share” Into The Social Security System Enough To “Increase Benefits.” ENGEL: “Our Social Security system faces insolvency in about a decade, which will lead to an automatic reduction in benefits. Congress must act to protect this program, but the Ciscomani/RSC plan will gut Social Security as we know it. The good news is that we can raise the needed revenue by requiring the wealthy to pay their fair share. Currently, 94 percent of workers pay into Social Security all year long. But people who make \$1,000,000 a year stop contributing in February! If the wealthiest Americans pay into Social Security at the same rate as the rest of us, we can afford to not just protect Social Security, but also increase benefits.” (Opinion: Kirsten Engel, “GOP’s Social Security Plan Cuts Deep,” [Green Valley News & Sun](#), 8/15/23)

NOTE: It is unclear whether Engel is referring specifically to payroll taxes, unemployment taxes, or something in between. This section is titled ‘Payroll Tax’ for convenience only.

Engel Supported Joe Biden’s \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Bill And Applauded The “Tremendous Proposal” To Establish A National Infrastructure Bank

VIDEO: In October 2020, Engel Said That A National Infrastructure Bank “Sounds Like A Tremendous Proposal” And “Exactly What We Need.” ALPHECCA MUTTARDY: “This National Infrastructure Bank, which is our proposal, will create about 900,000 jobs in the state of Arizona to build the infrastructure ... But I’m wondering if you would be willing to refurbish up that resolution to see if we can get H.R. 6422 going in the federal house to create jobs in Arizona, good-

paying jobs?” KIRSTEN ENGEL: “It sounds like a tremendous proposal, so — unfortunately I haven’t been familiar with it. I’d like to be more familiar with it before I sign on the dotted line, but it sounds like just exactly what we need, so I can’t see why not unless there’s something I don’t know, but it sounds great.” (Interview With Kirsten Engel, [Democrats Of Greater Tucson](#), 10/5/20) minute 42:14

AUDIO: In March 2022, Engel Said: “... It Is Just Such Fabulous News That We Got That Infrastructure Bill Passed ...” ENGEL: “Well, you know, first and foremost, you know, it is just such fabulous news that we got that infrastructure bill passed and, you know, the Democrats really were able to do that and that was something that the Trump administration had been trying to do for, you know, its whole time in office and wasn’t able to get done, so we got that done.” (“The World Begins To Reopen To Travelers,” [The Buckmaster Show](#), 3/15/22) minute 7:20