

Sue Altman Has Consistently Called For Increasing Taxes And Was A Prominent Supporter Of A Tax Plan That Would Have Raised Taxes In New Jersey By More Than \$3 Billion A Year

Altman Praised Phil Murphy's Proposed FY 2021 Budget, Which Would Have Raised Taxes And Spent A Record Amount

In February 2020, Gov. Phil Murphy Presented His FY 2021 Budget, Which Called For Record State Spending Of Nearly \$41 Billion. “Gov. Phil Murphy is asking lawmakers to approve a state budget plan that calls for a record amount of spending backed by nearly \$1 billion in added taxes to boost funding for things like education, mass transit and public-worker pensions. Among the tax hikes Murphy is proposing to help balance his nearly \$41 billion spending plan for fiscal year 2021 is an increase of the tax levied on a pack of cigarettes.” (John Reitmeyer, “In Annual Budget Address, Murphy Proposes 5% Hike in State Spending,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 2/26/20)

Murphy's Budget Called For Spending \$2 Billion More Than The Previous Year's Budget – A 5 Percent Increase. “In all, Murphy's \$40.85 billion proposed budget for the year that begins July 1 is roughly \$2 billion, or 5%, larger than the spending plan the governor signed into law for the current fiscal year. The increased spending is sustained in part by an assumption of the continuation of the current rate of economic growth under all current tax rates, but also the nearly \$1 billion in new revenue from the added taxes.” (John Reitmeyer, “In Annual Budget Address, Murphy Proposes 5% Hike in State Spending,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 2/26/20)

Murphy's Budget Called For Increased Taxes On Cigarettes, A New Tax On Corporations Whose Employees Are On Medicaid, And Increased Taxes On People Making Over \$1 Million. “Among the tax hikes Murphy is proposing to help balance his nearly \$41 billion spending plan for fiscal year 2021 is an increase of the tax levied on a pack of cigarettes. The first-term Democrat is also seeking a new tax on corporations that rely on Medicaid to help cover a large share of their employee health insurance. In his third budget address, Murphy also renewed his call for a true millionaire's tax during an hour-long speech to the state Legislature on Tuesday, which is something lawmakers have largely resisted in prior years.” (John Reitmeyer, “In Annual Budget Address, Murphy Proposes 5% Hike in State Spending,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 2/26/20)

Altman Praised Murphy's Budget, Saying “We Applaud The Governor's Leadership And The Legislature's Willingness To Take A Stand For The 99% Of New Jerseyans Who Will Benefit From This Budget. May This Be The First Step Toward Long Term Budgetary Thinking And Fairness In Our State.” “NEW JERSEY WORKING FAMILIES ALLIANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUE ALTMAN: ‘We applaud the Governor's leadership and the legislature's willingness to take a stand for the 99% of New Jerseyans who will benefit from this budget. May this be the first step toward long term budgetary thinking and fairness in our state.’” (David Wildstein, “Statements On Gov. Murphy Signing The 2021 N.J. Budget,” [New Jersey Globe](#), 9/29/20)

Altman Called For Legislators To Increase Taxes And Spending In The FY 2022 Budget

In March 2021, Altman Urged The New Jersey State Senate To Increase Taxes And Boost Spending On Public Health, Education, And Housing. “Riveting afternoon of Senate budget committee hearing! Our top line: Raise revenue so that we are making long term investments Keep the full pension payment! NO excuse for evictions in pandemic! No homelessness! Invest in public goods: health, schools, housing. @ForTheManyNJ...+ aid for undocumented people. (this is the riveting Zoom meeting) (I miss Trenton)” ([Sue Altman Twitter Feed](#), 3/16/21)



(Sue Altman Twitter Feed, 3/16/21)

Altman Supported Joe Biden’s “Build Back Better” Agenda, Which Was Projected To Raise Taxes By \$1 Trillion Over 10 Years

In December 2021, Altman Called For Democrats To Pass The Build Back Better Bill. “In the short term, it demonstrates just how important it is that the Senate passes President Biden's Build Back Better agenda, which passed the House of Representatives last month, with all of New Jersey's Democratic members in support. If Democrats want to show midterm voters that they deliver for them, the president's landmark legislative proposal — which addresses our climate crisis, lowers drug costs and cuts child poverty in half — is a no-brainer.” (Sue Altman, Op-Ed, “If They Want To Keep Winning, N.J. Dems Must Continue To Engage New Voters,” *Star-Ledger*, 12/5/21)

At The Time, The Build Back Better Act Was Projected To Raise Taxes By A Net Of \$1 Trillion From 2022 To 2031. “On a conventional basis, the House bill would raise about \$1 trillion in federal revenue from 2022 to 2031. The bill includes about \$1.7 trillion in gross revenue raisers, composed of about \$470 billion in corporate tax increases, \$530 billion in individual tax increases, \$148 billion net from additional IRS tax enforcement, \$340 billion from the drug pricing provisions, and about \$177 billion in net revenue from Ways & Means items scored by the Joint Committee on

Taxation (JCT) and Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The gross revenue is reduced by about \$658 billion in tax credits, resulting in about \$1 trillion in increased revenue net of tax credits.” (“House Build Back Better Act: Details & Analysis of Tax Provisions in the Budget Reconciliation Bill,” [Tax Foundation](#), 12/2/21)

Altman Called For More Than \$3 Billion In Annual Tax Increases, Including Increasing The Income Tax On Households Making Over \$250,000

In 2020, “For The Many,” A Coalition Of Labor, Environmental, And Advocacy Groups, Called For The State Legislature To Pass A Series Of Tax Increases Totaling More Than \$3 Billion Annually, Including Raising Income Taxes On All Households Earning Over \$250,000 A Year. “Going even further than Murphy on taxes is the ‘For The Many’ coalition, comprising labor, environmental and other advocacy groups. During a news conference in Trenton on Tuesday they backed a series of tax hikes that would raise a combined total of more than \$3 billion annually. By comparison, Murphy’s true millionaires tax could boost state revenue by an estimated \$500 million each year. Beyond its embrace of the millionaires tax, the coalition also supports raising the income tax on households earning more than \$250,000 annually.” (John Reitmeyer and Joanna Gaggis, “With Budget Season at Hand, A Competition for Ears in Trenton,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 2/19/20)

The “For The Many” Coalition Also Called For Reinstating New Jersey’s Estate Tax For All Estates Worth \$1 Million Or More, And Raising The State Sales Tax To 7 Percent.

“Among the group’s tax proposals are resetting the sales-tax rate at 7% and reinstating the estate tax for all estates worth \$1 million or more. New Jersey’s estate tax was phased out and the sales tax reduced to 6.625% under a series of tax-policy revisions signed into law by Christie in 2016.” (John Reitmeyer and Joanna Gaggis, “With Budget Season at Hand, A Competition for Ears in Trenton,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 2/19/20)

Altman Spoke At A Press Conference In Favor Of The Proposal, Saying “We Need Responsible Taxation.” “‘We need responsible taxation,’ said Sue Altman, state director of the New Jersey Working Families organization, during the news conference. Among the uses for the added revenue would be better funding of programs that address poverty and income inequality, the group said. The revenues should also be used to improve access to affordable housing and to boost environmental initiatives, such as the replacement of lead water-service lines and combating climate change.” (John Reitmeyer and Joanna Gaggis, “With Budget Season at Hand, A Competition for Ears in Trenton,” [NJ Spotlight News](#), 2/19/20)

Altman Continued To Call For Massive Tax Hikes As New Jersey Was Under A Stay-At-Home Order Due To COVID

On March 21, 2020, Gov. Phil Murphy Issued A Stay-At-Home Order Directing Citizens To Remain In Their Homes And Most Businesses To Close Statewide To Slow The Spread Of COVID-19. “To mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and protect the capacity of New Jersey’s health care system for the state’s most vulnerable, Governor Phil Murphy today signed Executive Order No. 107, directing all residents to stay at home until further notice. The order provides for certain exceptions, such as obtaining essential goods or services, seeking medical attention, visiting family or close friends, reporting to work, or engaging in outdoor activities. ‘From day one, we’ve made a commitment to be guided by the facts and take any action necessary to protect the health and safety of New Jersey’s nine million residents,’ said Governor Murphy. ‘We know the virus spreads through person-to-person contact, and the best way to prevent further exposure is to limit our public interactions to only the most essential purposes. This is a time for us all to come together in one mission to ‘flatten the curve’ and slow – and eventually halt – the spread of coronavirus.’ In effort to strengthen the existing social distancing measures in place, the order also prohibits all gatherings of individuals, such as parties, celebrations, or other social events, unless otherwise authorized by the Order. When in public, individuals must practice social distancing and stay at least six feet apart whenever possible, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners.” (Gov. Phil Murphy, “Governor Murphy Announces Statewide Stay at Home Order, Closure of All Non-Essential Retail Businesses,” [Press Release](#), 3/21/20)

In May 2020, As The Stay-At-Home Order Remained In Effect, “For The Many” Reiterated Its Call For New Jersey To Increase Income Taxes On High Earners,

Reinstate The Estate Tax, And Hike The Sales Tax. “To ensure a recovery for the many — not just the wealthy and well-connected — the coalition’s letter recommends four changes to the state’s tax code: reforming the income tax so top earners pay their fair share; reinstating the estate tax and refining the inheritance tax so it only applies to ultra-wealthy households; strengthening combined reporting so interstate companies cannot hide taxable income; and bringing the sales tax back to 7 percent and modernizing it to include services used by high-income households, like chartered flights and limousine services.” (For the Many, “For The Many NJ Calls on Governor, Legislature to Avoid Budget Cuts and Make the Tax Code Fairer,” [Press Release](#), 5/13/20)

Altman Said The Tax Increases Were Necessary Because “Turning Towards Austerity Now Is Not An Option.” “The letter emphasized that cuts made over the last decade have hampered the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as state departments and agencies are now operating with far fewer full-time staff and less resources than prior to the Great Recession. ‘COVID-19 has exposed the weaknesses in NJ’s ability to withstand a crisis,’ said Sue Altman, Executive Director of New Jersey Working Families Alliance and co-convenor of the coalition. ‘Turning towards austerity now is not an option. New Jersey needs revenue, the ability to bond, and better budgeting practices in order to sustain healthy and equitable communities. Tax fairness matters in times of crisis.’” (For the Many, “For The Many NJ Calls on Governor, Legislature to Avoid Budget Cuts and Make the Tax Code Fairer,” [Press Release](#), 5/13/20)

- **Altman: “New Jersey Needs Revenue, The Ability To Bond, And Better Budgeting Practices In Order To Sustain Healthy And Equitable Communities. Tax Fairness Matters In Times Of Crisis.”** (For the Many, “For The Many NJ Calls on Governor, Legislature to Avoid Budget Cuts and Make the Tax Code Fairer,” [Press Release](#), 5/13/20)