

California has the highest gas prices in the nation costing households an extra two-thousand dollars a year. But Rudy Salas refused to support multiple efforts to suspend or delay the state’s gas tax. Now drivers are paying more at the pump since the gas tax has increased by nearly 15 percent during his tenure.

Highest Gas Prices In The Nation

Sacramento Observer HEADLINE: “California Gas Prices Soar, Leading To Most Expensive In The US.” (*Sacramento Observer*, 4/9/24)

According To The U.S. News And World Report, In May 2024, California Had The Highest Gas Prices In The United States. “Western and Pacific states face the most costly gas in the nation, as the five states with the highest prices are California, Hawaii (\$4.57, Washington (\$4.57), Oregon (\$4.33) and Nevada (\$4.32). Of course, there can be differences in costs within one state or even within one city, depending on factors like local competition or an area’s access to pipelines and refineries.” (Julie Haines, Elliot Davis Jr., Chris Gilligan, “States With The Highest Gas Prices,” *U.S. News And World Report*, 5/24/24)

Costing Two-Thousand Dollars A Year

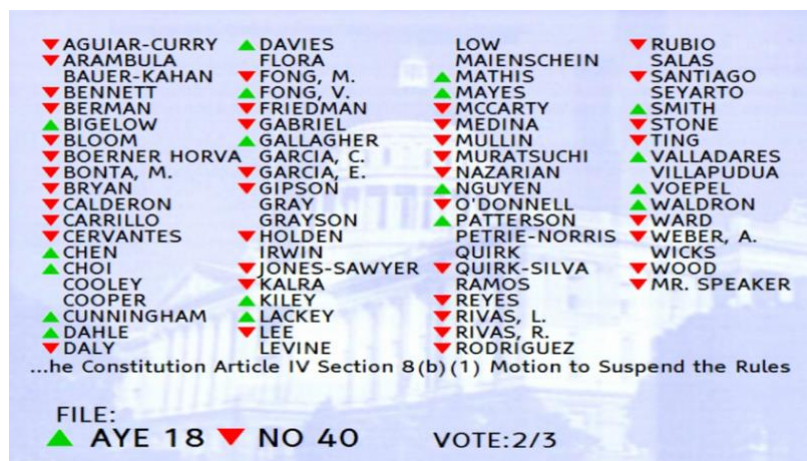
According To CBS, Current Gas Prices Are Costing American Households \$2,000 A Year. “American consumers are already struggling with the highest inflation in four decades — a phenomenon that is eating into buying power and eroding wages. But more economic pain may be in store, with one analyst estimating that the recent surge in gas prices following Russia's invasion of [Ukraine](#) could add up to \$2,000 in annual costs to the typical household budget.” (Aimee Picchi, “The Hit To Your Pocketbook From Higher Gas Prices: \$2,000 A Year,” *CBS*, 3/7/22)

Refused To Support Suspending Gas Tax

In 2022, Salas Missed Several Votes Aimed At Suspending California’s Gas Excise Tax For Six Months. “As much as that moment has figured in Salas' political biography, his Republican critics are looking to poke holes in his argument. They point to several Republican-driven votes that Salas missed earlier this year that were aimed at suspending California's gas excise tax for six months.” (Maeve Reston, “High Gas Prices Complicate Democrats' Hopes Of Picking Up US House Seats In California,” *CNN*, 6/1/22)

The San Joaquin Valley Sun Headline: “Calif. Lawmakers Reject GOP Push To Cut Gas Prices By 50 Cents Per Gallon” (Reid Stone, “Calif. Lawmakers Reject GOP Push To Cut Gas Prices By 50 Cents Per Gallon,” *The San Joaquin Valley Sun*, 3/14/22)

- **According To The Roll Call, Salas Did Not Vote To Suspend The Rules And Take Up AB 1638:**



(Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 3/14/22)

Here's how local lawmakers voted on the gas tax suspension:

- Joaquin Arambula (D–Fresno): No Vote Recorded
- Frank Bigelow (R–O’Neals): Yes
- Heath Flora (R–Ripon): No Vote Recorded
- Vince Fong (R–Bakersfield): Yes
- Adam Gray (D–Merced): No Vote Recorded
- Devon Mathis (R–Porterville): Yes
- Jim Patterson (R–Fresno): Yes
- Rudy Salas (D–Bakersfield): No Vote Recorded
- Carlos Villapudua (D–Stockton): No Vote Recorded

(Reid Stone, “Calif. Lawmakers Reject GOP Push To Cut Gas Prices By 50 Cents Per Gallon,” [The San Joaquin Valley Sun](#), 3/14/22)

- **According To The Assembly Daily Journal From March 14, 2022, Salas Was Present That Day.** (Proceedings Of The Assembly, Assembly Daily Journal, [2021-2022 California Legislature](#), 3/14/22)

In March 2022, Salas Missed A Second Vote To Consider Legislation Freezing California’s Gas Tax. “For the second time in two weeks, Salas missed a procedural vote to force expedited consideration of a bill to freeze California’s highest-in-the-nation gas tax, a move that would save drivers 51 cents per gallon at the pumps. The procedural vote, sought by Assembly GOP Leader James Gallagher (R–Yuba City) and Asm. Kevin Kiley (R–Rocklin), was tendered last week and saw more than half of the San Joaquin Valley Assembly delegation fail to appear to vote.” (Reid Stone, “Salas Catches Flak Over Missed Votes To Halt Gas Tax,” [The San Joaquin Valley Sun](#), 3/24/22)

VIDEO: On March 24, 2022, State Rep. Kevin Kiley Asked For A No Vote To Appeal The Ruling Of The Chair. Kiley Accused The Chair Of Sparing Members A Vote “On An Issue That Is Of Profound Importance To Every Californian.” CHAIR: “Mr. Kiley is appealing the ruling of the Chair. That requires a second. Seconded by Mr. Fong. We have two minutes. Mr. Kiley you have two minutes specifically to the ruling of the Chair on the rules of the House and this parliamentary matter.” KILEY: “I think Mr. Fong very clearly explained that the Chair is overtly breaking the rules of this chamber in order to spare members a vote on an issue that is of profound importance to every Californian. I ask for an Aye vote on the appeal of the Chair.” CHAIR: “Mr. Kiley, you’ll actually be asking for a no vote because the question before the body is, is the ruling of the Chair to be sustained? And I have my two minutes now, Mr. Kiley. And I have ruled on the matter. I have explained the rationale. The original motion to withdrawal was sent to the rules committee. The bill in chief had been properly referred to the transportation committee. We have tried to move forward with the business of the house. And Mr. Gallagher was out of order repeatedly, trying to speak to the substance of the matter when it was a procedural matter. I have made my ruling in this matter. The question before the body is shall the decision of the chair be sustained. Ms. Reyes is asking for an aye vote, Mr. Kiley is asking for a no vote. Clerk will open the roll.” (Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 3/24/22) ([NRCC YouTube](#))

- **Salas Did Not Vote On The Appeal Of The Ruling Of The Chair:**

▲ AGUIAR-CURRY ▼ DAVIES ▲ LOW ▲ RUBIO
 ▲ ARAMBULA ▼ FLORA ▲ MAIENSCHIEIN ▲ SALAS
 ▲ BAUER-KAHAN ▲ FONG, M. ▲ MATHIS ▲ SANTIAGO
 ▲ BENNETT ▼ FONG, V. ▲ MAYES ▼ SEYARTO
 ▲ BERMAN ▲ FRIEDMAN ▲ MCCARTY ▼ SMITH
 ▼ BIGELOW ▲ GABRIEL ▲ MEDINA ▲ STONE
 ▲ BLOOM ▼ GALLAGHER ▲ MULLIN ▲ TING
 ▲ BOERNER HORVATH ▲ GARCIA, C. ▲ MURATSUCHI ▼ VALLADARE
 ▲ BONTA, M. ▲ GARCIA, E. ▲ NAZARIAN ▲ VILLAPUDU
 ▲ BRYAN ▲ GIPSON ▼ NGUYEN ▼ VOEPEL
 ▲ CALDERON ▲ GRAY ▲ O'DONNELL ▼ WALDRON
 ▲ CARRILLO ▲ GRAYSON ▼ PATTERSON ▲ WARD
 ▲ CERVANTES ▲ HOLDEN ▲ PETRIE-NORRIS ▲ WEBER, A.
 ▼ CHEN ▲ IRWIN ▲ QUIRK ▲ WICKS
 ▲ CHOI ▲ JONES-SAWYER ▲ QUIRK-SILVA ▲ WOOD
 ▲ COOLEY ▼ KALRA ▲ RAMOS ▲ MR. SPEAKERS
 ▼ COOPER ▼ KILEY ▲ REYES
 ▼ CUNNINGHAM ▼ LACKEY ▲ RIVAS, L.
 ▲ DAHLE ▲ LEE ▲ RIVAS, R.
 ▲ DALY ▲ LEVINE ▲ RODRIGUEZ

Appeal the Decision of the Chair

FILE:
 ▲ AYE 47 ▼ NO 18 VOTE: Majority Present

(Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 3/24/22) ([NRCC YouTube](#))

- **According To The Assembly Daily Journal From March 24, 2022, Salas Was Not Present That Day.** (Proceedings Of The Assembly, Assembly Daily Journal, [2021-2022 California Legislature](#), 3/24/22)

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ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

Mar. 24, 2022

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

IN ASSEMBLY

Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
 Thursday, March 24, 2022

The Assembly met at 9 a.m.
 Hon. Kevin Mullin, Speaker pro Tempore of the Assembly,
 presiding.
 Chief Clerk Sue Parker at the Desk.
 Reading Clerk David A. Bowman reading.

ROLLCALL

The roll was called.

Quorum Call of the Assembly

Assembly Member Maienschein moved a quorum call of the
 Assembly.
 Motion carried. Time, 9:14 a.m.
 The Speaker pro Tempore directed the Sergeant at Arms to close the
 doors, and to bring in the absent Members.

Quorum Present

At 9:22 a.m., Speaker pro Tempore Mullin declared a quorum of the
 Assembly present.
 The rollcall was completed, and the following answered to their
 names—75:

Aguiar-Curry	Daly	Lee	Rivas, L.
Arambula	Davies	Levine	Rivas, R.
Bauer-Kahan	Flora	Low	Rodriguez
Bennett	Fong, M.	Maienschein	Rubio
Berman	Fong, V.	Mathis	Santiago
Bigelow	Friedman	Mayes	Seyarto
Bloom	Gabriel	McCarty	Smith
Boerner Horvath	Gallagher	Medina	Stone
Bonta, M.	Garcia, C.	Mullin	Ting
Bryan	Garcia, E.	Muratsuchi	Valladares
Calderon	Gipson	Nazarian	Villapudua
Carrillo	Gray	Nguyen	Voepel
Cervantes	Grayson	O'Donnell	Waldron
Chen	Holden	Patterson	Ward
Choi	Irwin	Petrie-Norris	Weber, A.
Cooley	Jones-Sawyer	Quirk	Wicks
Cooper	Kalra	Quirk-Silva	Wood
Cunningham	Kiley	Ramos	Mr. Speaker
Dahle	Lackey	Reyes	

(Proceedings Of The Assembly, Assembly Daily Journal, [2021-2022 California Legislature](#), 3/24/22)

Six Percent Increase

Salas Served In The California State Assembly From 2012 To 2022. “Salas has deep roots in Bakersfield and Kern County. In 2010, Salas was elected to become the first Latino member of the Bakersfield City Council. In 2012, he was elected to the state Legislature, serving five terms, until running against Valadao in 2022.” (Op=Ed, “Our View: Vote For David Valadao Or Rudy Salas In The 22nd Congressional District Primary,” [Bakersfield Californian](#), 2/11/24)

Between 2013 And 2022, The Gasoline Sales Tax In California Increased By 14.29 Percent.

Motor Vehicle Fuel (Gasoline) Rates by Period

Period	Sales Tax Rate (plus applicable district taxes) <i>Excludes Aviation Gasoline^[1]</i>	Prepayment of Sales Tax Rate (per gallon) <i>Excludes Aviation Gasoline^[2]</i>	Excise Tax Rate (per gallon) <i>Excludes Aviation Gasoline^[3]</i>
07/2024–06/2025	2.25%	\$0.080	\$0.596
07/2023–06/2024	2.25%	\$0.080	\$0.579
07/2022–06/2023	2.25%	\$0.090	\$0.539
07/2021–06/2022	2.25%	\$0.055	\$0.511
07/2020–06/2021	2.25%	\$0.050	\$0.505
07/2019–06/2020	2.25%	\$0.060	\$0.473
07/2018–06/2019	2.25%	\$0.060	\$0.417
11/2017–06/2018	2.25%	\$0.050	\$0.417
07/2017–10/2017	2.25%	\$0.050	\$0.297
07/2016–06/2017	2.25%	\$0.050	\$0.278
07/2015–06/2016	2.25%	\$0.050	\$0.300
04/2015–06/2015	2.25%	\$0.050	\$0.360
07/2014–03/2015	2.25%	\$0.065	\$0.360
07/2013–06/2014	2.25%	\$0.070	\$0.395

(“Sales Tax Rates For Fuels,” [California Department Of Tax And Fee Administration](#), Accessed 8/1/24)