

Gas prices have skyrocketed here in the Central Valley, and in Sacramento, Adam Gray voted to raise the gas tax by 43 percent. He even failed to support multiple efforts to suspend our state’s gas tax, and called such an effort a stunt. But now, drivers are paying more at the pump since the gas tax increased by nearly 6 percent on July 1st.

BACKUP:

California has the highest gas prices in the nation:

- **California has the highest gas prices in the nation.** “California is once again at the top of the charts, leading the nation in... wait for it... gas and diesel prices. AAA reports today’s national average of \$5.014 per gallon – California comes in at a cool \$6.436 per gallon for Regular, and nearly \$7.00 per gallon for Diesel. California’s prices greatly top the national averages: The average for a gallon of regular gas in California is \$6.436 per gallon, and a gallon of diesel is \$6.991.” (Katy Grimes, “California Tops Nation’s Highest Gas Prices at \$6.43 Per Gallon,” [The California Globe](#), 06/13/22)
- **As of July 18, 2022, California has the highest gas prices in the nation, and a state gas take hike increased prices by about 3 cents per gallon.** “California has consistently reported the highest average gas prices, clocking in at \$5.90 as of Monday, according to AAA. A state gas tax hike took effect on July 1, increasing prices by roughly 3 cents per gallon.” (Zach Schonfeld, “Here are the highest and lowest gas prices in the US today,” [The Hill](#), 07/18/22)
- **Per AAA as of August 2022, the current average price per gallon of regular gas in the Fresno metro area was \$5.603, was \$5.691 a week ago, was \$6.176 a month ago, and was \$4.301 a year ago.**

	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$5.603	\$5.796	\$5.986	\$6.425
Yesterday Avg.	\$5.593	\$5.804	\$5.979	\$6.466
Week Ago Avg.	\$5.691	\$5.899	\$6.067	\$6.569
Month Ago Avg.	\$6.176	\$6.411	\$6.564	\$6.894
Year Ago Avg.	\$4.301	\$4.500	\$4.622	\$4.275

(California Average Gas Prices, [AAA](#), Accessed 08/01/22)

The average American household is paying an extra \$2,000 per year due to skyrocketing gas prices:

- **According to an analysis from March 2022, the average American households are paying an extra \$2,000 per year due to skyrocketing gas prices.** “California Democrats, in particular, are now finding themselves in a climate-change box – being forced to defend their ‘green’ records while their constituents complain about paying the highest gas prices of their lives. Skyrocketing gas prices are now costing the average American household an extra \$2,000 a year, eating into buying power and eroding wages, Yardeni Research said in

an early March analysis.” (Susan Crabtree, “Analysis: Gas Prices Spell Trouble for Green Dems,” [RealClearPolitics](#), 05/20/22)

Even as statewide gasoline prices surged, California’s record prices could soar even higher:

- **Even as statewide gasoline prices surged, California’s record prices could soar even higher.** “Gasoline prices statewide surged 19 cents in one week to top \$6 a gallon here Wednesday, with analysts warning that California’s record prices could soar higher still and spread to the rest of the country.” (Susan Crabtree, “Analysis: Gas Prices Spell Trouble for Green Dems,” [RealClearPolitics](#), 05/20/22)

Adam Gray voted to raise the gas tax by 43%, or by 12 cents per gallon, and every California driver ended up paying more:

- **Adam Gray voted for the bill.** “Of the other Central Valley representatives in the State Assembly, Adam Gray and Joaquin Arambula both supported SB1.” (State Legislature Votes To Raise Price Of Gas For Road Repair, [KMJ Now](#), 04/07/17)
 - **On April 6th, 2017, Gray voted for S.B.1.** (SB 1, Y: 54, N: 26. NVR: 0, Gray Voted Yea, [California Legislative Information](#), 04/06/17)
 - **It was barely enough to meet the 2/3 threshold required for legislation that raises taxes.** “It was barely enough to meet the 2/3 threshold required for legislation that raises taxes, but it was enough.” (Melaine Curry, Transportation Funding Bill Passes with Closed-Dorr Deals and Public Posturing,” [StreetsBlog Cal](#), 04/07/17)
- **S.B.1 was a transportation bill that hiked gas taxes and vehicle license fees.** “Senate Bill 1, which would fix California’s pothole-ridden roads and unstable bridges by hiking gas taxes and vehicle license fees, squeaked by in the Senate 27-11. It then headed to the Assembly, where it passed narrowly, 54-26. Earlier Thursday, the Legislature’s Democratic leaders began showering reluctant legislators with transportation projects for their districts.” (Katy Murphy, “California Legislature passes 12-cent gas tax hike,” [The Mercury News](#), 04/06/17)
- **Gas taxes were raised by 43 percent or by 12 cents a gallon.** “The deal negotiated by Gov. Jerry Brown and legislative leaders passed without a vote to spare and will raise gas taxes by 43 percent, or 12 cents a gallon, while also increasing diesel taxes. The hikes take effect Nov. 1.” (Jonathan J. Cooper, “California Gas Tax Passes After Republican Lawmaker Wins \$500 Million Promise,” [CBS Sacramento 13](#), 04/07/17)
 - **S.B.1 hiked gas taxes 12 cents per gallon and diesel taxes by 20 cents per gallon.** “The deal will hike gas taxes 12 cents per gallon and diesel taxes 20 cents per gallon, starting Nov. 1.” (Katy Murphy, “California Legislature passes 12-cent gas tax hike,” [The Mercury News](#), 04/06/17)
 - **Every drive in California ended up paying more.** “A \$52 billion transportation bill – which will see every driver in California paying more to cover the cost – now only needs the Governor Jerry Brown’s signature for it to become law. Senate Bill 1’s passing saw the urgency clause enacted in the legislature, and both the State Assembly and State Senate worked late into Thursday night to see it through.” (State Legislature Votes To Raise Price Of Gas For Road Repair, [KMJ Now](#), 04/07/17)

S.B.1 raised gas taxes and vehicle fees by \$5.2 billion a year:

- **The bill would raise gas taxes and vehicle fees by \$5.2 billion a year.** “After a week of fierce debate between opposing interests, the state Legislature on Thursday approved a plan to raise gas taxes and vehicle fees by \$5.2 billion a year to pay for the repair of California’s pothole-ridden, decaying system of roads, highways and bridges.” (Patrick McGreevy and Meanie Mason, “California Legislature votes to raise gas taxes, vehicle fees by \$5.2 billion a year for road repairs and transit,” [The Los Angeles Times](#), 04/06/17)
- **It created new vehicle license fees.** “It will create a new vehicle license fees starting Jan. 1.” (Katy Murphy, “California Legislature passes 12-cent gas tax hike,” [The Mercury News](#), 04/06/17)
 - **Cars that are worth under \$5,000 would pay a \$25 per year which would be paid by nearly half of California drivers; Cars that are worth between \$5,000 to \$25,000 would pay \$50 by about 40 percent of California drivers; and the highest-end luxury cars would pay as much as \$175 more.** “The nearly half of California drivers whose cars are worth under \$5,000 would pay a \$25 fee each year, while those with vehicles valued between \$5,000 and \$25,000 – about 40 percent of drivers in the state – would pay \$50. Drivers of the highest-end luxury cars would pay as much as \$175 more.” (Katy Murphy, “California Legislature passes 12-cent gas tax hike,” [The Mercury News](#), 04/06/17)

The bill created a \$100 fee on electric vehicles starting in 2020:

- **California would charge \$100 per year for electric vehicles starting in 2020.** “The state also would charge \$100 per year, starting in 2020, for electric vehicles.” (Katy Murphy, “California Legislature passes 12-cent gas tax hike,” [The Mercury News](#), 04/06/17)
 - **Editor’s Note:** This was [referred](#) to as a \$100 Zero Emission Vehicle Annual charge.

Gray praised the legislation as having “really good stuff” in it:

- **Gray said the bill had “really good stuff here.”** “Democratic Assemblyman Adam Gray of Merced, whose district overlaps Cannella’s, also voted for the plan. ‘For our community ... we’ve got some really good stuff here,’ Gray said.” (Jonathan J. Cooper, “California Gas Tax Passes After Republican Lawmaker Wins \$500 Million Promise,” [CBS Sacramento 13](#), 04/07/17)

On March 14, 2022, Adam Gray failed to support an effort to suspend California’s state gas tax:

- **KILEY:** “I’d like to make a motion. I move to suspend the rules as we’ve done multiple times today already to take up my bill Assembly Bill 1638 without reference to file. This will suspend the state gas tax immediately and save Californians fifty cents a gallon.”
 - **CHAIR:** “This motion is not debatable. This takes 54 votes to suspend the constitutional three readings requirement on AB 1638 and the clerk will open the roll.” (Media Archive, Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/14/22) (1:25:08)
- **CHAIR:** “And the Clerk will close the roll. Aye’s eighteen. No’s forty. That motion fails.” (Media Archive, Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/14/22) (1:26:47)

- Adam Gray did not vote on the motion to suspend the rules.



(Media Archive, Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/14/22) (1:26:41)

- **Editor's Note:** Before not voting on the motion to suspend the rules regarding the state gas tax suspension, Gray also did not vote for the third reading of SB 118. It does not appear he voted.



(Media Archive, Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/14/22) (1:20:13)

Per The San Joaquin Valley Sun, Gray did not vote on the gas tax suspension:

- Adam Gray did not vote.

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](#), 03/14/22)

The suspension of California's gas tax could have saved drivers 51-cents per gallon, and would have suspended the tax for six months:

- Under AB 1638, California's imposition of the motor vehicle fuel tax would be suspended for a six-month window. "By an 18-39 vote, members of the California State

Assembly rejected a push by Assembly GOP Leader James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) and Asm. Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) to consider Assembly Bill 1638. Under the bill, California's imposition of the motor vehicle fuel tax would be suspended for a six month window." (Reid Stone, "Calif. Lawmakers reject GOP push to cut gas prices by 50 cents per gallon," [The San Joaquin Valley Sun](#), 03/14/22)

- **Editor's Note:** *The actual vote tally was 18-40.*
- **Suspending California's gas tax would save drivers 51-cents per gallon.** "Republican lawmakers gathered in Orange County on Wednesday to drum up support for a bill that would suspend California's gas tax for six months, saving drivers 51 cents on every gallon they pump." (Brooke Staggs, "Proposal from GOP lawmakers would cut California gas tax for six months," [East Bay Times](#), 03/03/22)

Gray called the vote political theater and "a stunt without substance:"

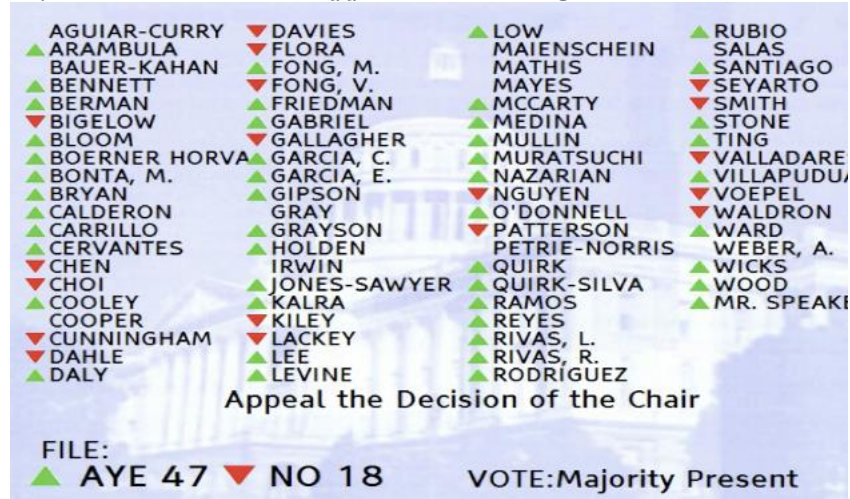
- **Gray did not vote but said he supports "putting money in people's pockets."** "Gray said he supports 'putting more money in people's pockets' but did not vote. In fact, it did not appear he voted at all during the two-hour session Monday." (David Taub, "Why did Valley Dems Skip Vote on Gas Tax Suspension?," [GV Wire](#), 03/16/22)gas
- **Gray said it was political theater and a stunt without substance.** "The political theater we saw ... was a stunt without substance. I'm not interested in empty promises. What I am interested in is how to get the most Californians the most relief,' Gray said." (David Taub, "Why did Valley Dems Skip Vote on Gas Tax Suspension?," [GV Wire](#), 03/16/22)

On March 24, 2022, Adam Gray failed to support an effort to suspend California's state gas tax:

Editor's Note: Per the [floor footage](#) (46:25), Gray was not listed as being absent. Gray did vote on ACR 158 (1:01:10).

- **CHAIR:** "Mr. Kiley is appealing the ruling of the Chair...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." (Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/24/22) ([NRCC YouTube](#))
 - **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." (Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/24/22) ([NRCC YouTube](#))
 - **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...Clerk will open the roll." (Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/24/22) ([NRCC YouTube](#))

- CHAIR: “Ayes 47. No’s 18. The ruling of the Chair is sustained. We are now moving to adjournments...” (Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/24/22) ([NRCC YouTube](#))
- Adam Gray did not vote on the appeal of the ruling of the Chair.



(Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 03/24/22) ([NRCC YouTube](#))

- As noted by Ashley Zavala of Kron4News, the result of the procedural vote to stick with the decision of the Chair is to essentially not bring the gas tax suspension bill to the floor.



([Ashley Zavala Twitter](#), 03/24/22)

Adam Gray failed to oppose an effort to help kill AB 1638, a bill that would suspend California’s gas tax for six months, before adjourning for spring break:

Editor’s Note: *Instead of amending AB 1638 with new tax increases on gas suppliers, the bill was [struck from the file](#) in its original form. The bill is not assigned to any committees, and will die if not voted on by the legislative deadline in May. This was [described](#) as a “state of purgatory.”*

- **AB 1638 proposed a temporary suspension of the motor fuel tax for six months.** “For those following Assembly Bill 1638, which proposed to temporarily suspend the motor vehicle fuel tax, the bill serves as a reminder of some important legislative process rules. AB 1638 was introduced on January 12, 2022. The bill proposed to suspend the imposition of the tax on motor vehicle fuels for 6 months and contained an urgency clause so that the bill, if enacted, would take effect immediately as an urgency statute.” (Chris Micheli, “The Plight of AB 1638 – A Reminder of Legislative Process Rules,” [The California Globe](#), 04/08/22)
- **AB 1638 was stricken from the Daily File; Once a bill is stricken, it may not be acted upon again during the session.** “However, instead AB 1638 was “stricken from the (Daily) File.” This is permitted by Assembly Rule 98. The motion to strike AB 1638 was adopted by more than 41 votes (i.e., more than the majority vote required). Under AR 98, once stricken, the bill may not be acted upon again during the session.” (Chris Micheli, “The Plight of AB 1638 – A Reminder of Legislative Process Rules,” [The California Globe](#), 04/08/22)
 - **After the floor action, AB 1638 was dead for the year.** “As a result of Thursday’s Floor action, AB 1638 is dead for the year, unless that action is rescinded and the bill is returned to Second Reading. Moreover, because the bill was struck from the Daily File before the committee amendments were adopted, the amendments were never made to the bill, and so the introduced version (with the gas tax suspension) remains in print.” (Chris Micheli, “The Plight of AB 1638 – A Reminder of Legislative Process Rules,” [The California Globe](#), 04/08/22)
- **REYES: “I move to strike item number one from the file.”** (Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 04/07/22) (45:29)
 - **CHAIR: “Second by Mr. Ward. Members this is a procedural motion requiring 41 votes. The Clerk will open the roll. All members vote who desire to vote. Majority leader is asking for an aye vote. Republican Leader asking for a no.”** (Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 04/07/22) (45:29)
 - **CHAIR: “Clerk will close the roll and tally the vote. Ayes 43. Noes 15. The item is stricken from the file.”**



(Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 04/07/22) (45:29)

- Adam Gray did not vote against striking the gas tax suspension bill.



(Kevin Kiley Twitter, 04/11/22)

- The Assembly is adjourned for Spring Recess starting April 8th, 2022 until April 18th, 2022.

Floor Session

Spring Recess Daily File

Friday, April 8, 2022

The Assembly has adjourned until Monday, April 18, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

([Listen to this floor session](#))

[Show Details](#)

(Sprung Recess Daily File, [California State Assembly](#), Accessed 04/11/22)

- Any type of gas tax rebate would be weeks away since lawmakers were on spring break and the governor was on vacation. “Newsom’s proposal is one of several circulating through the State Capitol to try to offset rising gas prices. Others include a suspension of the gas tax and direct checks to California taxpayers. Lawmakers are on spring break this week, and the governor gets back from his vacation on Tuesday. So, the possibility of any rebate hitting bank accounts is still, at the very least, weeks away.” (Ashley Zavala and Jose Fabian, “New information about CA gas relief plan released,” [Fox 5 San Diego](#), 04/11/22)

California’s gas tax increased to 53.9 cents per gallon, or by nearly 6%, starting on July 1st, 2022:

Editor’s Note: $5.48\% = ((53.9-51.1)/(51.1))*100$

- California’s gas tax was scheduled to increase on July 1st, 2022. “California’s gas tax is scheduled to increase on July 1 after legislative leaders rejected Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposal to suspend the hike to help drivers cope with sky-high prices at the pump.” (Dustin Gardiner, “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 05/02/22)

- Drivers will pay about 3 cents more per gallon when the inflationary increase takes effect, increasing from 51.1 cents per gallon to 53.9 cents per gallon. “Drivers will now pay about 3 cents more per gallon when the inflationary increase takes effect, with the tax rate slated to increase from 51.1 cents per gallon to 53.9 cents per gallon.” (Dustin Gardiner, “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 05/02/22)
- HEADLINE: “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost.”

POLITICS

California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost

(Dustin Gardiner, “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 05/02/22)

The tax hike means drivers of a typical sedan with a 13-gallon tank would pay about 36 cents more to refuel a vehicle from empty:

- The tax hike means drivers of a typical sedan with a 13-gallon tank would pay about 36 cents more to refuel a vehicle from empty. “The tax hike means the driver of a typical sedan, with a 13-gallon gas tank, would pay about 36 cents more to refuel a vehicle from empty.” (Dustin Gardiner, “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 05/02/22)