

Although California has the highest gas prices in the nation, Rudy Salas voted for a plan that could raise gas prices by 73 cents per gallon. Salas even skipped multiple votes to suspend or delay the gas tax. Now drivers are paying more at the pump because the gas tax recently increased by nearly 6 percent, and the average household is paying an extra two-thousand dollars a year because of skyrocketing gas prices.

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)

Rudy Salas voted to approve a 10-year extension of California’s cap-and-trade program:

- **Rudy Salas voted for AB 398.** (AB 398, Y: 44, N: 22, NVR: 2, Rudy Salas Voted Yes, [California Legislative Information](#), 07/17/17)
- **California state lawmakers approved a 10-year extension for California’s cap-and-trade program.** “In a big victory for Gov. Jerry Brown, state lawmakers approved a 10-year extension for California’s cap-and-trade program.” (Chris Megerian, “California lawmakers approve cap-and trade extension,” [The Los Angeles Times](#), 07/17/17)
- **Cap and trade requires companies to buy permits to release greenhouse gas emissions.** “Cap and trade requires companies to buy permits to release greenhouse gas emissions.” (Chris Megerian, “California lawmakers approve cap-and trade extension,” [The Los Angeles Times](#), 07/17/17)
- **AB 398 will continue the program until 2030.** “The legislation approved on Monday, Assembly Bill 398, will continue the program until 2030.” (Chris Megerian, “California lawmakers approve cap-and trade extension,” [The Los Angeles Times](#), 07/17/17)

Cap-and-trade could raise gas prices by as much as 73 cents per gallon by 2031:

Editor’s Note: *The 73 cent/gallon figure is a projection dependent on emissions allowances trading at their price ceiling. If allowances are sold at a lower price, the impact on gas prices would be lower (\$0.25/gallon at the price floor).*

- According to the California Legislative Analyst’s Office, cap-and-trade could raise gas prices by 63 cents per gallon in 2021, increasing to 73 cents per gallon in 2031. “Gasoline Price Increase. Figure 2 displays our estimates of the effects of cap-and-trade on retail gasoline prices under each allowance price scenario. (Note that we do not discuss the potential effect on diesel prices in this letter.) Under the auction reserve price scenario, cap-and-trade would raise gas prices by an estimated 15 cents per gallon in 2021, increasing to 24 cents per gallon in 2031. Under the APCR price scenario, cap-and-trade would raise gas prices by an estimated 63 cents per gallon in 2021, increasing to 73 cents per gallon in 2031. To obtain these estimates, we assume that retail gasoline prices would increase by 9 cents per gallon for every \$10 per metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent that an allowance costs. Importantly, based on our review of research, we assume that the burden of additional fuel costs will fall completely on motorists. We also assume that the program does not affect fuel prices through other channels.” (Letter To Member Fong, [California Legislative Analyst Office](#), 03/29/17)

Rudy Salas failed to support an effort to delay a gas tax increase:

Editor’s Note: There is no clear reason why Salas did not vote. According to the [Assembly Journal](#) from June 17, 2019, Salas voted both prior and after the vote related to amendments for Senate Bill No. 87. Salas voted on consideration of Senate Bill No. 84. Salas also then voted on passage of the bill after the gas tax amendments were tabled.

- **ASSEMBLY MEMBER FONG:** “Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer amendments to delay the implementation of an upcoming gas tax increase heading our way on July 1st.” (SB87, Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 1:31:42, 06/17/19)
- Fong offered amendments to delay a gas tax increase.

Motion to Amend by Assembly Member Fong
 Assembly Member Fong moved the adoption of amendments.
 Amendments read.

(Senate Bill No. 87, [Assembly Journal](#), Page #17, 06/17/19)

- There was a motion to table Fong’s amendments.

**Motion to Table Fong Amendments to
 Senate Bill No. 87—Set 1**
 Assembly Member Calderon moved that the amendments offered by Assembly Member Fong to Senate Bill No. 87—Set 1 be laid upon the table.
 Assembly Member Bonta seconded the motion.

(Senate Bill No. 87, [Assembly Journal](#), Page #17, 06/17/19)

- Salas did not vote on the motion.

Ruling by Speaker pro Tempore Mullin

The Speaker pro Tempore ruled the point of order not well-taken; pursuant to the Assembly Rules, the motion to lay on the table is in order.

The question being on the Calderon motion to lay on the table.
Motion to lay on the table carried by the following vote:

AYES—51			
Aguiar-Curry	Daly	Irwin	Reyes
Arambula	Eggman	Jones-Sawyer	Rivas, L.
Berman	Frazier	Kalra	Rivas, R.
Bloom	Friedman	Kamlager-Dove	Rodriguez
Bonta	Gabriel	Levine	Rubio
Burke	Garcia, C.	Limón	Santiago
Calderon	Garcia, E.	Low	Stone
Carrillo	Gipson	McCarty	Ting
Chau	Gloria	Medina	Weber
Chiu	Gonzalez	Mullin	Wicks
Chu	Gray	Nazarian	Wood
Cooley	Grayson	O'Donnell	Mr. Speaker
Cooper	Holden	Quirk	
NOES—18			
Bigelow	Diep	Lackey	Quirk-Silva
Brough	Flora	Mathis	Voepel
Chen	Fong	Mayes	Waldron
Choi	Gallagher	Melendez	
Cunningham	Kiley	Obernolte	

(Senate Bill No. 87, [Assembly Journal](#), Page #17, 06/17/19)

Bill Votes	
Date	06/17/19
Result	(PASS)
Location	Assembly Floor
Ayes Count	51
Noes Count	18
NVR Count	10
Motion	SB 87 B. & F. R. Senate Third Reading By TING Amend By FONG Set #1 Motion to Lay on the Table By CALDERON
Ayes	Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Berman, Bloom, Bonta, Burke, Calderon, Carrillo, Chau, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Daly, Eggman, Frazier, Friedman, Gabriel, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gipson, Gloria, Gonzalez, Gray, Grayson, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kalra, Kamlager-Dove, Levine, Limón, Low, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, O'Donnell, Quirk, Reyes, Luz Rivas, Robert Rivas, Rodriguez, Blanca Rubio, Santiago, Mark Stone, Ting, Weber, Wicks, Wood, Rendon
Noes	Bigelow, Brough, Chen, Choi, Cunningham, Diep, Flora, Fong, Gallagher, Kiley, Lackey, Mathis, Mayes, Melendez, Obernolte, Quirk-Silva, Voepel, Waldron
NVR	Bauer-Kahan, Boerner Horvath, Cervantes, Maienschein, Muratsuchi, Patterson, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Salas, Smith

(SB-87 Transportation, Y:51 N:18 NVR: 10, Rudy Salas did not vote, [California Legislative Information](#), 06/17/19)

- Per the video of the Assembly Floor Session, Salas ultimately did not cast a vote.



(SB87, Assembly Floor Session, [California State Assembly](#), 1:33:07, 06/17/19)

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

Editor’s Note: Per the Assembly Daily Journal from March 14, 2022, Rudy Salas was present.

- **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)
 - Rudy Salas did not vote on the motion to suspend the rules.

...he Constitution Article IV Section 8(b)(1) Motion to Suspend the Rules

FILE:
▲ AYE 18 ▼ NO 40 VOTE:2/3

(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, Salas also did not vote for the third reading of SB 118.

Senate Third Reading
SB 118 B. & F. R.

FILE:
▲ AYE 69 ▼ NO 0 VOTE:Majority

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

- The CAGOP criticized Rudy Salas in a tweet for failing to support the effort on a gas tax holiday.



([CAGOP Twitter](#), 03/15/22)

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

- Rudy Salas 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)

Rudy Salas's office said he was not on the Assembly Floor when the vote occurred:

- Salas's office said he "...was not on the Floor when the vote occurred, his record is very clean when he was the only Assembly Democrat who voted no on the gas tax." "Salas' office said the following: 'Assemblymember Salas was not on the Floor when the vote occurred, his record is very clean when he was the only Assembly Democrat who voted no on the gas tax.'" (David Taub, "Why did Valley Dems Skip Vote on Gas Tax Suspension?," [GV Wire](#), 03/16/22)

Rudy Salas missed a procedural vote to force expedited consideration of a bill to freeze California's highest-in-the nation gas tax that would save drivers 51 cents per gallon for the second time in two weeks:

- Rudy Salas missed a procedural vote to force expedited consideration of a bill to freeze California's highest-in-the nation gas tax that would save drivers 51 cents per gallon for the second time in two weeks. "Asm. Rudy Salas (D–Bakersfield) is, once again, in the line of fire for tough votes on California's gas tax. This time, however, it centers on missing and abstaining from votes to alter California's gas tax amid the pinch felt by Golden State drivers due to soaring gas prices. 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." (Reid Stone, "Salas catches flak over missed votes to halt gas tax," [The San Joaquin Valley Sun](#), 03/24/22)
 - During a second attempt to force a vote on a gas tax holiday, Salas once again did not register a vote. "Thursday morning, amid Gallagher and Kiley's second attempt to force a vote on a gas tax holiday, Salas – once again – did not register a vote." (Reid Stone, "Salas catches flak over missed votes to halt gas tax," [The San Joaquin Valley Sun](#), 03/24/22)
 - More than half of the San Joaquin Valley Assembly delegation failed to appear to vote. "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](#), 03/24/22)
- **HEADLINE:** "Salas catches flak over missed votes to halt gas tax."

Salas catches flak over missed votes to halt gas tax

(Reid Stone, "Salas catches flak over missed votes to halt gas tax," [The San Joaquin Valley Sun](#), 03/24/22)

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)

California's gas 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 increased 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)

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)

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 household 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)