

Andrea Salinas' pro-tax history hurts Oregonians who are struggling financially with rising inflation and an economy on the brink. Salinas has supported taxes on everything from cell phone bills to health insurance. She even voted for one of the largest tax increases in state history, which was estimated to raise \$1 billion a year.

BACKUP:

Editor's Note: Andrea Salinas is a former [lobbyist](#) on the [state](#) and [federal](#) levels. As a federal lobbyist, she "[helped prevent a big reduction](#)" in the IRS workforce.

With skyrocketing food prices and record-high gas prices, Oregonians are struggling to afford things like gas, groceries, and diapers:

- Rampant inflation is “imposing severe pressures on families, forcing them to pay much more for food, gas and rent.” “Across Oregon, the average for unleaded was \$5.52 and diesel was \$6.14. America’s rampant inflation is imposing severe pressures on families, forcing them to pay much more for food, gas and rent and reducing their ability to afford discretionary items, from haircuts to electronics.” (The Associated Press, “Inflation hit a new 40-year high in May, driven by gas prices,” [Central Oregon Daily](#), 6/10/22)
- Oregonians are “grappling with soaring food costs” and those who rely on public food benefits are especially vulnerable to the rising prices. “Oregonians and some state agencies are grappling with soaring food costs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, retail food prices have jumped 8.6% in a year, including a 1% uptick in February. Anyone who’s gone shopping has had sticker shock. Those who rely on public food benefits are especially vulnerable to rising prices.” (Lynne Terry, “Skyrocketing food prices are pinching budgets of Oregon individuals and agencies,” [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#), 3/17/22)
 - *Oregon Capital Chronicle* headline: “Skyrocketing food prices are pinching budgets of Oregon individuals and agencies” (Lynne Terry, “Skyrocketing food prices are pinching budgets of Oregon individuals and agencies,” [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#), 3/17/22)
- As of June 2022, Oregon’s record-high gas prices were the fourth-highest in the nation. “Oregon's record-high gas prices are already the fourth-highest in the nation, and AAA predicts they will keep on going up during the busy summer travel season.” (Bryant Clerkey, “Gas prices in Oregon among the highest in the country,” [KGW 8](#), 6/6/22)
- *KEZI 9 News* headline: “Sky-high gas prices impacting local businesses” (Nick Ursini, “Sky-high gas prices impacting local businesses,” [KEZI 9 News](#), 3/7/22)
- Oregonians such as April Berg-Davis are “feeling the pain at the pump” “April Berg-Davis, a local Uber and Lyft driver, said she's feeling the pain at the pump, and the steep gas prices are cutting into her earnings.” (Bryant Clerkey, “Gas prices in Oregon among the highest in the country,” [KGW 8](#), 6/6/22)
- In March 2022, Oregon legislators passed a bill to provide a one-time \$600 cost-of-living payment to over 200,000 Oregonians in an effort to help low-income families facing skyrocketing prices from fuel to food. “Oregon this week sent out hundreds of thousands of cost-of-living payments in an effort to help low-income families facing skyrocketing prices

from fuel to food. In March of this year, Oregon Democrats led the passage of House Bill 4157, a one-time \$600 cost-of-living payment to over 236,000 Oregonians across every corner of the state.” (FOX 12 Staff, “Oregon distributes \$600 cost-of-living payments to over 200,000 households,” [FOX 12](#), 7/13/22)

Cell Phone Tax

In 2020, Andrea Salinas voted for SB 1603, legislation that would impose a tax on cell phone service:

- **In 2020, the Oregon Legislature considered Senate Bill 1603, which was a cell phone tax bill.** “A cellphone tax that died during a Republican legislative walkout last year is on a fast track during this week’s special session. Senate Bill 1603 shifts the burden of financing rural telecommunications services from the dwindling number of landline subscribers to a broader pool of wireless phone customers. It would use the new money from the tax to finance broadband projects in rural parts of the state, where many residents and businesses cope with agonizingly slow internet connections.” (Mike Rogoway, “Cellphone Tax On Fast Track During Session,” [The Oregonian](#), 6/26/20)
- **In June 2020, Andrea Salinas for Senate Bill 1603.** (Oregon Legislature, “SB 1603,” Third Reading: [Passed 38-19](#), Salinas Voted Aye, 6/26/20)

6-26 (H)

Rules suspended. Third reading. Carried by Marsh. Passed. Ayes, 38; Nays, 19--Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Drazan, Hayden, Helt, Lelf, Lewis, Moore-Green, Nearman, Owens, Post, Reschke, Smith DB, Sprenger, Stark, Wallan, Wilson, Zika; Excused, 3--Barker, Barreto, Clem.

Vote:

Drazan	Nay	Smith Warner	Aye
Alonso Leon	Aye	Barker	Excused
Barreto	Excused	Bonham	Nay
Boshart Davis	Nay	Breese-Iverson	Nay
Bynum	Aye	Clem	Excused
Dexter	Aye	Doherty	Aye
Evans	Aye	Fahrey	Aye
Gomberg	Aye	Gorsak	Aye
Hayden	Nay	Helm	Aye
Helt	Nay	Hernandez	Aye
Holvey	Aye	Keny-Guyer	Aye
Lawrence Spence	Aye	Lelf	Nay
Lewis	Nay	Lively	Aye
Marsh	Aye	McKosow	Aye
McLain	Aye	Meek	Aye
Mitchell	Aye	Moore-Green	Nay
Nathanson	Aye	Nearman	Nay
Neron	Aye	Noble	Aye
Nosse	Aye	Owens	Nay
Piluso	Aye	Post	Nay
Power	Aye	Prusak	Aye
Rayfield	Aye	Reardon	Aye
Reschke	Nay	Salinas	Aye
Sanchez	Aye	Schouten	Aye
Smith DB	Nay	Smith G	Aye
Soliman	Aye	Sprenger	Nay
Stark	Nay	Wallan	Nay
Wilde	Aye	Williams	Aye
Wilson	Nay	Witt	Aye
Zika	Nay	Speaker Kotek	Aye

(Oregon Legislature, “SB 1603,” Third Reading: [Passed 38-19](#), Salinas Voted Aye, 6/26/20)

- ***The Oregonian* headline: “Cell phone tax sails through Oregon Legislature”** (Mike Rogoway, “Cell phone tax sails through Oregon Legislature,” [The Oregonian](#), 6/27/20)
- **Opponents of Senate Bill 1603 argued that Oregon should rely on newly granted federal funds to finance broadband expansion, rather than hiking taxes in the middle of an economic crisis.** “Already, Oregon is planning to use newly granted federal funds to finance broadband expansion. Republican opponents of the Senate Bill 1603 argued Friday that the state should rely on that money to improve internet service rather than hike taxes in the middle of an economic crisis.” (Mike Rogoway, “Cell phone tax sails through Oregon Legislature,” [The Oregonian](#), 6/27/20)
 - **The Oregon Senate Republicans voted against SB 1603, arguing that the cell phone tax came when Oregonians were “living in an economic shutdown.”**

“Today, the Senate Republicans voted against SB 1603, a cell phone tax disguised as a rural assistance bill. ‘The legislative process has not only been taken away from Oregonians, but now they must absorb a new tax when they are living in an economic shutdown,’ said Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod (R-Stayton). ‘Democrats are spending money the state doesn’t have. This is a tax, and I think Oregon deserves better.’” (Oregon Senate Republicans, “Senate Republicans Vote Against Cell Phone Tax,” [Press Release](#), 6/26/20)

- **The tax hike would reportedly raise the typical cellphone bills by \$4 a year.** “Advocates say the new tax would increase typical cellphone bills by \$4 a year, raising \$5 million for rural broadband. Offsetting the tax hike would be a reduction in what subscribers pay for landline phones, which the bill’s supporters say could save the typical residential landline customer \$12 a year.” (Mike Rogoway, “Cellphone Tax On Fast Track During Session,” [The Oregonian](#), 6/26/20)
- **The ACU Foundation opposed the bill.** “SB 1603 (1st Special Session Socializing Rural Broadband Expansion Costs Through Additional Telecom Taxation. This bill socializes rural broadband expansion costs by imposing a new tax on cellphone users. Specifically, the bill expands the universal service surcharge (currently placed on landlines) to include wireless services and then directs \$5 million annually to the broadband fund. ACU recognizes that this spending is on top of the already \$67.6 million provided by federal taxpayers to fund rural broadband in Oregon in 2019 alone. ACU believes the market is the best mechanism to determine the need for broadband, does not believe that taxpayers in one area should be forced to pay for the services of those who choose to live in another area and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 26, 2020 by a vote of 16-10 and the bill was signed into law.” (ACU Foundation, “Ratings of Oregon 2020,” [Website](#), Accessed: 7/25/22)

Measure 101: Tax on Health Insurance and Hospitals

Andrea Salinas supported an up-to-\$320 million tax increase on health insurers and hospitals, which insurance companies were allowed to pass along to consumers:

Editor’s Note: Measure 101 was a 2018 ballot measure which sought to repeal an up-to-\$320 million tax increase on health insurers and hospitals. A “yes” vote on Measure 101 was a vote for the taxes while a “no” vote was a vote to reject the taxes.

- **In January 2018, Salinas participated in two public debates in which she advocated for passage of Measure 101.** “Today, I had the pleasure of debating Representative Julie Parrish in support of Measure 101 on two separate occasions: first, at a forum hosted by the Deschutes County League of Women Voters, and again at KTVZ in Bend. I am proud to stand with over 160 organizations across the state that support funding Medicaid for over 750,000 Oregonians. #yesforhealthcare” (Andrea Salinas, [Facebook](#), 1/4/18)



(Andrea Salinas, [Facebook](#), 1/4/18)

Editor's Note: Andrea Salinas supported a “yes” vote on Measure 101, which would allow the taxes to take effect. A transcript of the KTVZ debate is available [here](#).

- **Measure 101 was a January 2018 referendum that gave Oregonians the opportunity to approve or reject legislation that was passed by the Legislature in 2017.** “The Oregon Constitution provides registered voters the opportunity to vote on a law passed by the legislature if a referendum is placed on the ballot. In a referendum, a ‘yes’ vote means you want the law to take effect, and a ‘no’ vote means you do not want the law to take effect. This past fall, 70,320 Oregonians signed a petition to allow citizens to vote on Measure 101. The provisions of Measure 101 will not become law unless Oregon voters approve it at a special election to be held on January 23, 2018.” (Oregon Secretary of State, “[2018 Special Election Voters Pamphlet](#),” Accessed: 8/5/22)
 - **The measure asked voters to approve or reject temporary “assessments” created as part of House Bill 2391, which was enacted by the 2017 Oregon Legislature to address certain health care funding issues.** “This measure asks voters to approve or reject temporary assessments created as part of House Bill 2391, enacted by the 2017 Oregon Legislature to address certain health care funding issues. The House Bill provided funding to pay costs for providing health care to low-income adults, children, families, and individuals with disabilities, and to stabilize premiums charged by insurance companies for health insurance purchased by individuals and families. The House Bill provided the funding through 1.5 percent assessments on

premiums and premium equivalents (defined in the House Bill) of health insurance companies, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, and managed care organizations for a two-year period, and additional 0.7 percent assessments on the net revenue of some hospitals that begins on October 6, 2017, and ends on July 1, 2019. This measure asks voters to approve or reject the assessments on insurance companies, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, and managed care organizations, and specifies that insurance companies may not increase rates on health insurance premiums by more than 1.5 percent as a result of these assessments. If this measure passes, the assessments on some hospitals will be approved, subject to approval by a federal agency. If the measure does not pass, the assessments on some hospitals will either be rejected, or delayed until approved by a federal agency." (Oregon Secretary of State, "[2018 Special Election Voters Pamphlet](#)," Accessed: 8/5/22)

- **A “yes” vote on Measure 101 was a vote to allow the health care taxes to take effect, while a “no” vote on Measure 101 was a vote against the taxes.** “The Oregon Constitution provides registered voters the opportunity to vote on a law passed by the legislature if a referendum is placed on the ballot. In a referendum, a ‘yes’ vote means you want the law to take effect, and a ‘no’ vote means you do not want the law to take effect. This past fall, 70,320 Oregonians signed a petition to allow citizens to vote on Measure 101. The provisions of Measure 101 will not become law unless Oregon voters approve it at a special election to be held on January 23, 2018.” (Oregon Secretary of State, "[2018 Special Election Voters Pamphlet](#)," Accessed: 8/5/22)
- **Measure 101 sought to repeal \$320 million in taxes on health insurers and hospitals.** “An architect of Measure 101, the state ballot measure to repeal \$320 million in taxes on health insurers and hospitals for Oregon’s Medicaid program, faced off with a supporter of the funds at a public forum in Springfield on Tuesday night... Val Hoyle, a former state representative from Eugene who supports the funding package, and state Rep. Cedric Hayden, a Fall Creek Republican and one of the chief petitioners of the effort to put a repeal of some of the taxes on the ballot through Oregon’s referendum process, gave their pitches for and against the measure to about 50 people at the Richard E. Wildish Community Theater in downtown Springfield.” (Elon Glucklich, “Springfield forum airs pros and cons of Measure 101,” [Register Guard](#), 1/10/18)
 - ***Bend Bulletin* headline: “Editorial: Don’t hide a tax by calling it something else”** (Editorial, “Editorial: Don’t hide a tax by calling it something else,” [Bend Bulletin](#), 9/25/17)
- **Measure 101 was approved by voters, which meant that it would raise up to \$320 million in taxes on hospitals and many health insurance policies.** “Oregon's Medicaid program survived intact Tuesday, after voters approved hundreds of millions of dollars in health care taxes in a special election. Measure 101, which led 62 percent to 38 percent with returns partially tallied, was the only issue on the ballot. It will raise \$210 million to \$320 million in taxes on Oregon's largest hospitals and many health insurance policies by 2019.” (Hillary Borrud, “Oregon voters overwhelmingly pass health care taxes,” [The Oregonian](#), 1/24/18)
 - **Under the funding plan, insurance companies would pay a 1.5 percent tax on most policies—which they are allowed to pass along to consumers—and large hospitals would pay a 0.7 percent tax.** “Large hospitals will pay a 0.7 percent tax. Insurance companies will pay a 1.5 percent tax on most policies, which they are

allowed to pass along to consumers.” (Hillary Borrud, “Oregon voters overwhelmingly pass health care taxes,” [The Oregonian](#), 1/24/18)

- **The “hefty tax increase” on hospitals can be passed along to patients.** “The measure has enormous institutional support. These supporters include public employee unions, whose members have health care and social service jobs at stake and whose lower-paid members could lose coverage. And hospitals, even though they would pay a hefty tax increase. It's also supported by health insurers, who would also pay more in taxes. Why would groups support a tax increase on themselves? First of all, they can pass the tax along to patients and insurance companies. Second, and more importantly, they benefit from the federal matching dollars.” (WW Staff, “Answers To Your Questions About Measure 101—including How You Should Vote,” [Willamette Week](#), 1/10/18)

Between 2013 and 2019, Oregon health care costs increased by about 50 percent – faster than the national average:

- **Between 2013 and 2019, Oregon health care costs increased by about 50 percent.** “Health care costs for Oregonians increased more per year than the rest of the U.S. Spending on health care went up by about 50% between 2013 and 2019, an average of 7% every year. That’s according to a new report from the Oregon Health Authority.” (Alex Hasenstab, “Oregon health care costs increased faster than the rest of the country,” [OPB](#), 7/21/22)
- **OPB headline: “Oregon health care costs increased faster than the rest of the country”** (Alex Hasenstab, “Oregon health care costs increased faster than the rest of the country,” [OPB](#), 7/21/22)

Extending Measure 101’s Taxes

In 2019, Andrea Salinas voted for HB 2010, a more than \$300 million funding package that expanded and extended Measure 101’s taxes on hospitals and health insurers:

- **In 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2010, a \$380 million package of taxes that expanded and extended Measure 101’s taxes on hospitals and health insurers.** “On Thursday, the Senate passed House Bill 2010, a \$380 million package of taxes on hospitals and health insurers that will remain in place for six years...The bill had already passed the House by a wide margin. HB 2010 expands and extends a set of assessments approved by voters in January 2018's Measure 101. One part of the legislation, which is supported by the health care industry, modifies an existing tax on state hospitals.” (Dirk VanderHart, “Oregon Lawmakers Tax Hospitals, Insurers To Fill Yawning Budget Gap,” [OPB](#), 2/28/19)
- **Salinas voted for House Bill 2010.** (Oregon Legislature, “HB 2010,” Third Reading: [Passed 44-15](#), Salinas Voted Aye, 2/19/19)

2-19 (H) Third reading. Carried by Nosse. Passed: Ayes, 44; Nays, 15—Barreto, Bonham, Hayden, Leif, Lewis, McLane, Nearman, Noble, Post, Reschke, Smith DB, Spranger, Stark, Wilson, Zika; Excused, 1—Drazan.

Vote:

Williamson	Aye	Wilson	Nay
Alonso Leon	Aye	Barker	Aye
Barreto	Nay	Boles	Aye
Bonham	Nay	Boshart Davis	Aye
Bynum	Aye	Clem	Aye
Doherty	Aye	Drazan	Excused
Evans	Aye	Fahey	Aye
Findley	Aye	Gomborg	Aye
Gorsek	Aye	Greenlick	Aye
Hayden	Nay	Helm	Aye
Helt	Aye	Hernandez	Aye
Holvay	Aye	Kery-Guyer	Aye
Leif	Nay	Lewis	Nay
Lively	Aye	Marsh	Aye
McKeown	Aye	McLain	Aye
McLane	Nay	Meek	Aye
Mitchell	Aye	Nathanson	Aye
Nearman	Nay	Neron	Aye
Noble	Nay	Nosse	Aye
Pluso	Aye	Post	Nay
Power	Aye	Prusak	Aye
Rayfield	Aye	Reardon	Aye
Reschke	Nay	Salinas	Aye
Sanchez	Aye	Schouten	Aye
Smith G	Aye	Smith DB	Nay
Smith Warner	Aye	Soltman	Aye
Spranger	Nay	Stark	Nay
Wallan	Aye	Wilde	Aye
Williams	Aye	Witt	Aye
Zika	Nay	Speaker Kotek	Aye

(Oregon Legislature, "HB 2010," Third Reading: [Passed 44-15](#), Salinas Voted Aye, 2/19/19)

\$1 Billion Gross Receipts Tax

Andrea Salinas voted to impose a gross receipts tax on Oregon businesses, which represented one of the largest tax increases in state history and was estimated to raise \$1 billion a year:

- In 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3427, which taxed businesses' gross receipts in Oregon exceeding \$1 million a year. "A massive proposal to inject more money into Oregon's struggling public school system is headed to the governor's desk, where it is expected to be signed into law. The state Senate approved House Bill 3427 on an 18-11 vote Monday, delivering Democrats a signature victory - but only after the party, which holds supermajorities in both the House and Senate, gave up significant concessions to ensure they could have a vote at all...The bill taxes businesses on their gross receipts in Oregon exceeding \$1 million per year. Businesses would have to pay slightly more than half a percent, although they could deduct 35% of their labor or production input costs." (Mark Miller, "State Senate Oks School Reform Tax," [The Daily Astorian](#), 5/13/19)
- **Salinas voted for House Bill 3427.** (Oregon Legislature, HB 3427, [Passed 37-21](#), Salinas Voted Yea, 5/1/19)

5-1 (H) Passed: Ayes, 37; Nays, 21—Barreto, Boles, Bonham, Boshart Davis, Drazan, Findley, Hayden, Helt, Leif, Lewis, McLane, Nearman, Noble, Post, Reschke, Smith DB, Smith G, Stark, Wallan, Wilson, Zika; Excused, 2—Barker, Spranger.

Vote:

Williamson	Aye	Wilson	Nay
Alonso Leon	Aye	Barker	Excused
Barreto	Nay	Boles	Nay
Bonham	Nay	Boshart Davis	Nay
Bynum	Aye	Clem	Aye
Doherty	Aye	Drazan	Nay
Evans	Aye	Fahey	Aye
Findley	Aye	Gomborg	Aye
Gorsek	Aye	Greenlick	Aye
Hayden	Nay	Helm	Aye
Helt	Nay	Hernandez	Aye
Holvay	Aye	Kery-Guyer	Aye
Leif	Nay	Lewis	Nay
Lively	Aye	Marsh	Aye
McKeown	Aye	McLain	Aye
McLane	Nay	Meek	Aye
Mitchell	Aye	Nathanson	Aye
Nearman	Nay	Neron	Aye
Noble	Nay	Nosse	Aye
Pluso	Aye	Post	Nay
Power	Aye	Prusak	Aye
Rayfield	Aye	Reardon	Aye
Reschke	Nay	Salinas	Aye
Sanchez	Aye	Schouten	Aye
Smith G	Nay	Smith DB	Nay
Smith Warner	Aye	Soltman	Aye
Spranger	Excused	Stark	Nay
Wallan	Nay	Wilde	Aye
Williams	Aye	Witt	Aye
Zika	Nay	Speaker Kotek	Aye

(Oregon Legislature, HB 3427, [Passed 37-21](#), Salinas Voted Yea, 5/1/19)

- House Bill 3427 represented “one of the largest tax increases in state history” and it was passed through the Legislature at “warp speed.” “Outnumbered Republicans, unhappy about one of the largest tax increases in state history passing through the Legislature at ‘warp speed,’ endeavored to throw the brakes on HB 3427, also known as the Student Success Act.” (Mark Miller, “State Senate Oks School Reform Tax,” [The Astorian](#), 5/13/19)
- House Bill 3427 was estimated to raise \$2 billion per biennium. “Oregon already spends about half of its discretionary budget on education. But education advocates, including a state commission formed to figure out what Oregon needs to have a quality education model, say it's not enough. The \$2 billion per biennium coming from HB 3427 would effectively close the gap between the current service level and the quality education model, although it won't increase the state school fund.” (Mark Miller, “State Senate Oks School Reform Tax,” [The Astorian](#), 5/13/19)
 - Subheading from *The Astorian*: “Bill could generate \$1 billion a year” (Mark Miller, “State Senate Oks School Reform Tax,” [The Astorian](#), 5/13/19)



(Mark Miller, “State Senate Oks School Reform Tax,” [The Astorian](#), 5/13/19)

Oregon’s new gross receipts tax would “harm low income households who can least afford the added cost” and would hit businesses regardless of if they are profitable:

- According to *Forbes*, Oregon’s new gross receipts tax would “harm low income households who can least afford the added cost.” “Oregon’s new gross receipts tax will harm low income households who can least afford the added cost. According to estimates from the Oregon Legislative Revenue Office, Oregon taxpayers who earn less than \$20,500 will experience a 0.2% reduction in longterm income, which works out to be about \$85 per year.” (Patrick Gleason, “Oregon Democrats Impose A New Tax, One That Voters Recently Rejected,” [Forbes](#), 5/14/19)
- Oregon’s proposed gross receipts tax would hit businesses regardless of if they are profitable. “Only five states levy a gross receipts tax, which hits employers irrespective of whether a business is even profitable. Among the more egregious aspects of the proposed gross receipts tax is that even employers that fail to turn a profit in a given year can still face a gross receipts tax bill. This and the tax pyramiding that gross receipts taxes lead to are among the reasons why economists all across the political spectrum agree that a gross receipts tax is among the most economically damaging ways to raise revenue.” (Patrick Gleason, “Oregon Democrats Impose A New Tax, One That Voters Recently Rejected,” [Forbes](#), 5/14/19)

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