

Even though California is already home to the nation's highest gas prices, Christy Smith supported a plan that could increase California's gas prices by as much as seventy-three cents per gallon. She even failed to support an effort to stop a gas tax increase. Now, drivers are paying more at the pump because the gas tax recently increased by nearly 6 percent.

## **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)

### **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)

### **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)

### **Smith supported California's Cap and Trade program:**

- Smith supported Cap and Trade on Evolve's candidate questionnaire.

13) I support California's landmark cap-and-trade market program to combat global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Agree

(Christy Smith AD 38, [Evolve Candidate Questionnaire](#), Accessed September 2016)

- **Editor's Note:** Christy Smith's survey is no longer accessible on the *Evolve Candidate Questionnaire*.

### **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)

### **Christy Smith failed to support an effort to stop a gas tax increase:**

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

- **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](#), 06/17/19) (Page 17)

- Smith did not vote.

**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	Oberholte	

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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, Oberholte, 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, Smith did not vote, [California Legislative Information](#), 06/17/19)

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

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

- California’s gas tax increased on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 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)