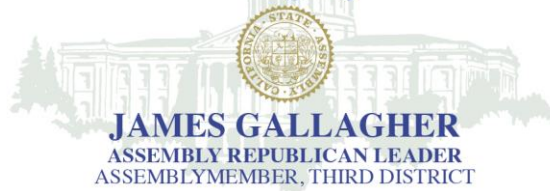


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# Assembly California Legislature



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Friday, October 7, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, California, 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
1021 O Street, Suite 8518  
Sacramento, California, 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 8330  
Sacramento, California, 95814

## **RE: Gas Prices and Concern with Call of Special Session**

Dear Governor and Colleagues:

On behalf of the Assembly Republican Caucus, we write with serious concerns about how gas prices are impacting California families. Record high inflation combined with \$100+ fuel bills are straining family budgets and causing substantial financial hardships. We respectfully are requesting you to reconsider your denial of our attempts to suspend the state's gas tax, which is now adding 54 cents to every gallon of gas.

It was especially disturbing to learn yesterday that Democrats are considering a Special Legislative Session with the goal of increasing taxes. Republicans call on you to immediately retract this proposed effort. The only reason why a Special Legislative Session would be warranted would be to suspend the gas tax, reduce the fees and regulations that make California gas so much more expensive, and allow permits to increase production to lower gas prices.

Let's be clear about what is actually causing high fuel prices: California policy decisions. Today, Californians are paying over \$2.50 more for a gallon of gas more than the rest of the nation. Reports show that the fuel price differential between California and the national average recently hit a new record. Any attempt to deflect away from this reality is insulting to struggling Californians who are well aware that Florida and Texas drivers are paying around \$3 per gallon. The decision to begin distributing winter-blend gasoline earlier than usual is helpful, but much more must be done.

Finally, motorists deserve a full and immediate audit of gas tax expenditures. Californians pay the highest gas taxes in the nation, all in the name of improving roads and highways. However, a report issued this week ranked California dead last in road quality. It's completely unacceptable that 44% of California's roads are in poor condition, the most of any state in the U.S.

California deserves better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Gallagher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

**JAMES GALLAGHER**  
Assembly Republican Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vince Fong". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name being the most legible part.

**VINCE FONG**  
Vice Chair, Assembly Budget  
Committee