



# TOM'S GAS PRICE PLAN

April 2026

## Liberating California from Big Oil

Big Oil has held California hostage for too long, manufacturing supply shortages and rigging gas prices at the expense of working families. **Big Oil spent \$445 million to buy the last presidential election.** Their chosen candidate is starting wars and coups that drive up the price of gas. Californians are paying for it while oil executives are laughing all the way to the bank.

But today is a turning point.

As Governor, I will stop Big Oil's war profiteering, investigate their excess profits, and double the tax on private jets. To permanently break Big Oil's grip on our state, we will make California energy independent with a **cheaper, faster, and better energy system** that provides for Californians in the 21st century.

Californians have borne the brunt of the climate crisis, facing everything from devastating wildfires to polluted air. Yet, California remains the greatest place in the world to live—not in spite of our commitment to the natural world, **but precisely because of it.**

**But there is a broader problem at hand.** Californians are charged more for gas than any other state. The so-called "**Mystery Gas Surcharge**" is a seemingly coordinated scheme by a cartel of **four corporations that control 90%** of California's refining capacity.

Using a 2015 refinery fire as their initial excuse, these oil giants permanently inflated prices, quietly siphoning **an extra 10-15 percent per gallon in pure profit** from drivers every time they fill up. Over the last decade, this rigged system has **drained more than \$59 billion** from Californians' pockets while hiding behind the smokescreen of state taxes and environmental regulations. Now, they are threatening to artificially restrict supply by shutting down refineries early, manufacturing the next crisis to keep prices exceptionally high while expecting Californians to blame Sacramento for the bill.



Suspending the gas tax without a revenue stream is a political gimmick. Because corporate oil executives control the final price at the pump, they can simply pocket the tax cut as pure profit while starving our state of crucial infrastructure funding. Ending this revenue stream hands a blank check to Big Oil, cuts vital funding for roads, and doesn't guarantee a cent of savings for California drivers.

Big Oil will pay for this crisis. But it's also time for California to become energy independent and stop playing the political games of Texas, Washington, and the Middle East. When we produce our own clean energy, we dictate our own future.

I have taken on corporate interests at the ballot box and won three times, including beating Big Oil. If needed I'll do it again.

**As Governor, here's what I will do –**



# I will stop Big Oil's war profiteering and windfall profits and return money to Californians

Big Oil is using the conflict in Iran to artificially inflate their margins, charging skyrocketing prices at the pump to rake in record windfall profits. As Governor, I will tax these windfall profits and pay them back directly to Californians.

- Oil companies use global crises to panic the market and justify predatory pricing at home. I will not let them use international conflicts as an excuse to gouge working families.
- **I will direct the California Energy Commission (CEC) to activate the “maximum gross refining margin” penalty.** This will use the state's existing executive authority to establish a hard, legal ceiling on exactly how much profit refineries are allowed to make off a gallon of gas.
- If oil corporations violate this cap and make excess profits, the state will automatically step in, penalize the companies, and legally confiscate those excess profits.
- **Every dollar collected from Big Oil's illegal markups will be returned directly to Californians as a rebate to help offset the rising cost of living.**



## I will investigate Big Oil's price gouging

For too long, Big Oil has used their monopoly power to artificially inflate prices.

Since 2015 Californians have had to pay an extra \$59 billion at the pump. As Governor I will not let these oil giants continue to use crises as a smokescreen to keep Californians addicted to a dirty and expensive energy source.

- I will attack Big Oil's monopoly control over gas pricing and gouging – commonly called the “**mystery gas surcharge.**”
- **I will work with the Attorney General to launch an official investigation as to why Californians are charged more** compared to the rest of the United States.
- If needed, the State of California will force testimony and subpoena internal corporate communications, refinery maintenance schedules, and spot-market trading data to expose collusion.

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## I will make private jets pay

California drivers pay higher taxes to fill up their cars than billionaires pay to fill up their private jets. If you have enough money to fly privately, we will tax you appropriately.

- **As Governor, I will double the tax on private jet fuel** and invest this revenue to directly benefit California communities and infrastructure.



## I will secure California's clean energy independence

It's time for California to secure its energy independence and cut ties with the energy policies of Washington D.C. and the fossil fuel industry. **Much of the world's clean technology is invented in California. Let's use it to liberate ourselves from a corrupt government and monopolies.**

California should control its own clean power future and free California households from Big Oil.

- **True energy independence means liberating California families from the gas pump.** I will launch a massive state "Cash for Clunkers" program to help everyday Californians affordably trade in their older, expensive-to-run gas vehicles for clean alternatives. **I will triple the state's EV tax credit to \$600 million**, ensuring working and middle-class households can actually afford the transition to the latest electric vehicle technology.
- **Utilities have weaponized their control over the grid to block innovation and progress.** By acting like monopolies, utilities force Californians to pay the second-highest electricity rates in the country. **I will fundamentally restructure our power grid to stop utilities from acting like monopolies** by adding competition, ending their double-digit guaranteed returns, and cut household electricity costs by 25 percent. I will ensure our energy system works for the public—not corporate lobbyists.
- **I will overhaul the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)** to slash red tape and eliminate the years-long delays that stall green innovation. Through this overhauled CPUC, I will force utilities to fast-track the deployment of new clean energy projects, battery storage, electric vehicle charging stations, and distributed energy resources to the grid.



# I will demand a cheaper energy transition

Governor Newsom [led the charge](#) to put oil profits back into communities—but Big Oil held Californians hostage and threatened to shut off our state's supply. I will build on Governor Newsom's leadership and give California leverage both in the short-term and long-term.

- Oil companies use any supply shortage as an excuse to gouge California households and slow down the energy transition. As electric vehicles become cheaper, faster, and better, they will inevitably gain more market share – but Big Oil will shut down refineries to keep gas supplies short and prices high.
- **I will step in to protect affordability for California households by making sure consumers are protected from supply shortages.**
- In the interim, I will expand California's state strategic petroleum reserves to use in times of economic crisis and **stop Big Oil from creating gas shortages.**
- I will work with the CEC and other policy leaders to create an “**affordability first framework**” to govern California's energy transition to avoid future supply shortages and price spikes.



As Governor, I will hold Big Oil accountable for predatory price gouging and tax their windfall profits, allowing us to return billions of dollars directly to the pockets of hardworking Californians. But this plan's objective is more than just fighting corporate greed. This plan is about creating a roadmap to true energy independence.

By overhauling our power grid, tripling electric vehicle tax credits, and fast-tracking green innovation, we will liberate our state from the whims of fossil fuel executives and global conflicts. California has always been a pioneer, and together, we can build a cheaper, faster, and better energy future where we dictate our own destiny and ensure our state remains the greatest place in the world to call home.

