



# South Bend Common Council

**Dr. Oliver Davis**

At-Large Council Member

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Mike Braun

Governor of Indiana

Statehouse

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2797

Filed in Clerk's Office

MAR 23 2026

Bianca Tirado  
City Clerk, South Bend, IN

Dear Governor Braun,

We are writing to you as concerned Hoosier residents and as South Bend Common Council members who serve in South Bend, Indiana, to respectfully urge you to temporarily suspend the state's gasoline tax. With total state and federal taxes per gallon reaching over 70 cents in early 2026, the current tax burden at the pump is making it difficult for many working families here in the South Bend, Indiana area to afford the daily commute to work and to transport their families.

As of March 2026, Indiana drivers are facing rising costs at the pump, with the state gasoline excise tax holding at 36 cents a gallon and the sales tax calculation rising. While we understand the importance of funding our state's infrastructure, the current economic pressure on Hoosier households requires immediate relief. As of March 23, 2026, gas prices in South Bend, Indiana, are averaging around \$3.80 per gallon for regular, with some local stations exceeding \$4.19 per gallon due to recent geopolitical instability.

We are encouraged that you have indicated you are not ruling out suspending the gas tax if prices continue to rise. Given that other surrounding states are exploring ways to provide relief, we ask that you take action to pause Indiana's state gas tax until fuel prices stabilize.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter and for your service to the people of Indiana.

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**Dr. Oliver Davis**

At-Large Council Member

Sincerely,

Dr. Oliver Davis, South Bend Common Councilman At-Large (D)

[odavis@southbendin.gov](mailto:odavis@southbendin.gov)

Sincerely,

Sherry Bolden-Simpson, South Bend Common Council Member 5<sup>th</sup> District (D)

[sbolden-simpson@southbendin.gov](mailto:sbolden-simpson@southbendin.gov)

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