

Analysis Shows Voting For a State Gas Tax Increase Does Not Hurt Reelection Chances

- **91% of legislators who supported legislation to increase their state gas tax were reelected during the next general election**
- **98% of lawmakers won their 2016 primary race**

The decision to vote for legislation to increase a state gas tax had little impact on the re-election rates for those elected officials, according to a new analysis by the Transportation Investment Advocacy Center™ (TIAC) of election results for over 2,500 state legislators between 2013 and 2016.

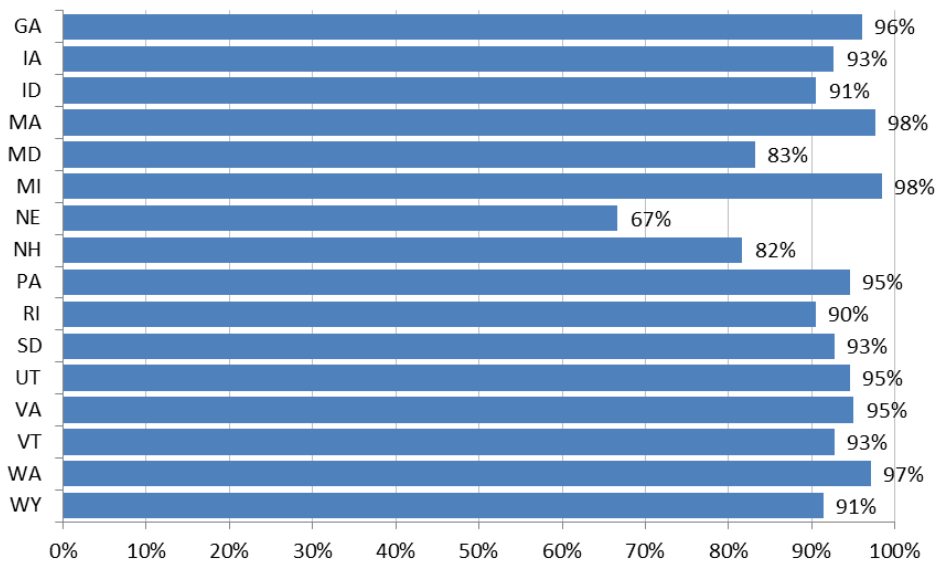
Sixteen states that increased their gas tax rates or equivalent measures between 2013 and 2015— Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. Of the legislators who voted on those measures, 82 percent stood for reelection between 2013 and 2016.

Nearly all (91 percent) of the 1,300 state legislators who voted for a gas tax increase and stood for reelection— were sent back to the state house by voters.

Of the 677 elected officials who voted against a gas tax increase, 93 percent were also given another term.

The high reelection rates were also evident across

Reelection rate for state legislators who approved a gas tax increase between 2013 and 2015



party lines and between different types of elected officials in the Assembly, House or Senate. Over 91 percent of state House Representatives and 94 percent of state Senators were returned to office. More than 91 percent of legislators who sponsored the respective bills to increase the gas tax were also reelected.

Fourteen of the 16 states saw reelection rates over 90 percent. Four of the seven legislators in Nebraska who voted for a gas tax increase in 2015 and stood for reelection in 2016 won reelection, a rate of 67 percent. Further research suggests that other major state issues, including a debate over the death penalty, were the major driver of some of these election losses.

Increasing Transportation Funding is Still a Bipartisan Issue

Politicians on both sides of the aisle have voted for increasing transportation investment in recent years. Legislation to raise the gas tax was approved in nine states with a Republican governor and Republican majority legislature, and four states with a Democratic governor and Democratic majority legislature. Two states had a Democratic governor and split legislature, and one state had a Republican governor and split legislature.

Of the six governors who approved a gas tax increase and ran for reelection, five (three Democrats and two Republicans) won their reelection campaign.

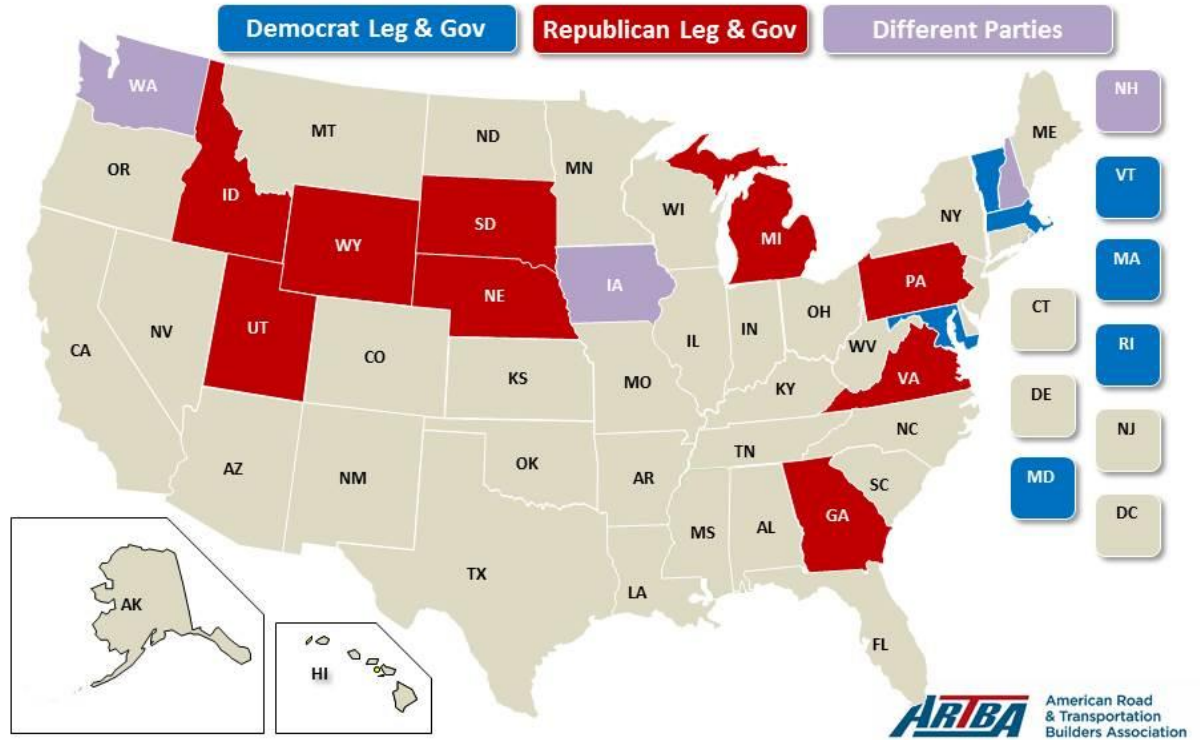
For Republican state legislators who supported a gas tax increase, 95 percent were reelected. This is exactly the same reelection rate as those officials who voted against the gas tax increase—95 percent of them won another term. For Democrats, 89 percent of those officials who voted for a gas tax increase were reelected, compared to 86 percent who voted against the same legislation.

Primary Results Also Suggest No Impact From Gas Tax Vote

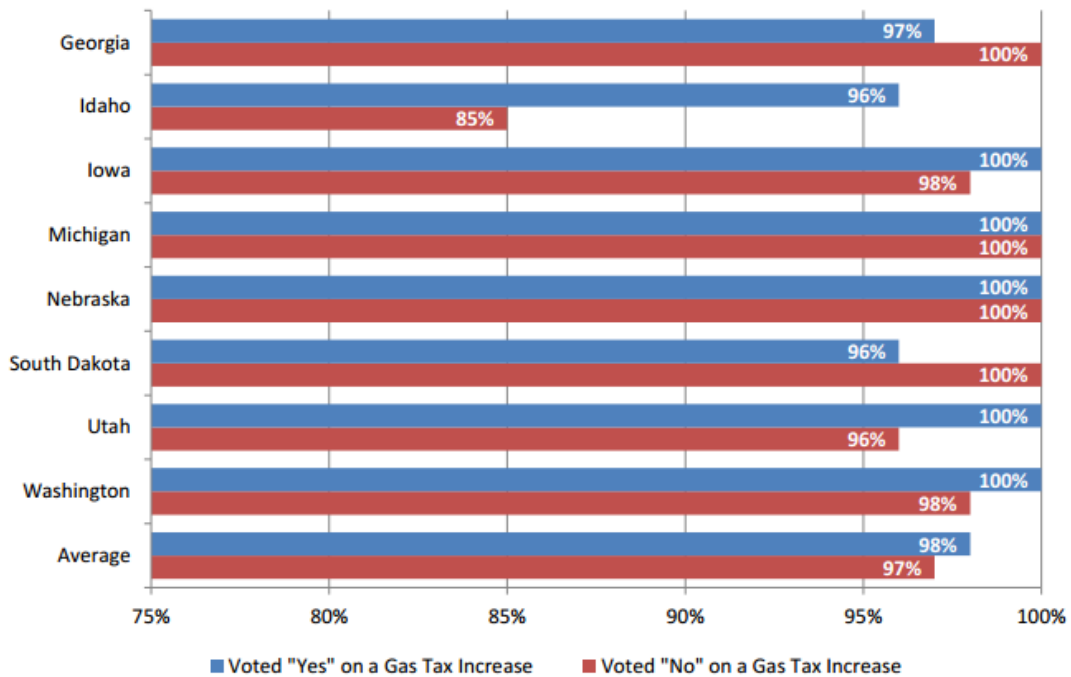
TIAC also tracked reelection rates during the 2016 primaries for the eight states that passed gas tax increases in 2015—Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah and Washington. Six of these states had a Republican governor and Republican majority legislature at the time the legislation was passed.

In the 2016 primaries, 98 percent of the Republican and 98 percent of Democratic lawmakers who approved a gas tax increase and ran for their seat in a primary race moved on to the general election, compared to 97 percent of legislators who had voted “no” on the gas tax increase.

Political Party of Legislature and Governor where State Gas Tax Increases were passed 2013-2015



State Lawmakers Who Won 2016 Primaries After Voting on 2015 Legislation to Increase State Gas Tax to Support New Transportation Investments



How State Legislators Faired In Their Next General Election After Voting on a State Gas Tax Increase

state	Year the bill was passed	Total Votes on Gas Tax				Election Results					
		Total "Yes" Votes	Total "No" Votes	Vote not cast	Total Votes	"Yes" votes that ran for reelection	"No" votes that ran for reelection	"Yes" votes that won reelection	"No" votes that won reelection	Percent of "Yes" votes that won reelection	Percent of "No" votes that won reelection
Georgia	2015	171	53	12	236	150	45	144	45	96%	100%
Iowa	2015	63	60	1	124	54	54	53	47	98%	87%
Idaho	2015	77	28	0	105	68	27	63	23	93%	85%
Massachusetts	2013	158	38	1	197	136	35	132	35	97%	100%
Maryland	2013	103	83	2	188	86	61	76	47	88%	77%
Michigan	2015	56	52	0	108	29	36	29	35	100%	97%
Nebraska	2015	14	8	2	24	7	5	4	4	57%	80%
New Hampshire	2013	208	150	53	411	165	121	123	111	75%	92%
Pennsylvania	2013	156	92	4	252	132	85	125	81	95%	95%
Rhode Island	2014	95	17	1	113	88	16	79	15	90%	94%
South Dakota	2015	80	19	5	104	55	14	50	14	91%	100%
Utah	2015	53	34	3	90	43	28	42	25	98%	89%
Virginia	2013	90	47	3	140	75	43	71	42	95%	98%
Vermont	2013	130	41	9	180	107	36	98	36	92%	100%
Washington	2015	73	50	1	124	60	42	58	41	97%	98%
Wyoming	2013	53	36	1	90	40	29	37	26	93%	90%
Total		1,580	808	98	2,486	1,295	677	1,184	627	91%	93%

How Republican State Legislators Fared In Their Next General Election After Voting on a State Gas Tax Increase

state	Year the bill was passed	Total Votes on Gas Tax				Election Results					
		Total "Yes" Votes	Total "No" Votes	Vote not cast	Total Votes	"Yes" votes that ran for reelection	"No" votes that ran for reelection	"Yes" votes that won reelection	"No" votes that won reelection	Percent of "Yes" votes that won reelection	Percent of "No" votes that won reelection
Georgia	2015	102	46	9	157	89	40	86	40	97%	100%
Iowa	2015	35	33	1	69	29	29	29	29	100%	100%
Idaho	2015	58	26	0	84	52	25	49	21	94%	84%
Massachusetts	2013	1	33	0	34	0	30	0	30	n/a	100%
Maryland	2013	0	53	2	55	0	39	0	33	n/a	85%
Michigan	2015	54	7	0	61	29	5	29	5	100%	100%
Nebraska	2015	8	5	1	14	4	3	1	2	25%	67%
New Hampshire	2013	22	142	23	187	14	115	13	105	93%	91%
Pennsylvania	2013	89	47	0	136	73	43	73	43	100%	100%
Rhode Island	2014	4	7	0	11	3	6	3	6	100%	100%
South Dakota	2015	67	13	4	84	47	11	43	11	91%	100%
Utah	2015	43	31	3	77	34	25	33	23	97%	92%
Virginia	2013	43	42	2	87	35	39	31	38	89%	97%
Vermont	2013	17	34	1	52	15	29	14	29	93%	100%
Washington	2015	20	41	0	61	17	35	15	35	88%	100%
Wyoming	2013	44	33	1	78	33	26	31	24	94%	92%
Total		607	593	47	1,247	474	500	450	474	95%	95%

How Democratic State Legislators Fared In Their Next General Election After Voting on a State Gas Tax Increase

state	Year the bill was passed	Total Votes on Gas Tax				Election Results						
		Total "Yes" Votes	Total "No" Votes	Vote not cast	Total Votes	"Yes" votes that ran for reelection	"No" votes that ran for reelection	"Yes" votes that won reelection	"No" votes that won reelection	Percent of "Yes" votes that won reelection	Percent of "No" votes that won reelection	
Georgia	2015	69	6	3	78	61	5	58	5	95%	100%	
Iowa	2015	28	27	0	55	25	25	24	18	96%	72%	
Idaho	2015	19	2	0	21	16	2	14	2	88%	100%	
Massachusetts	2013	157	5	1	163	136	5	132	5	97%	100%	
Maryland	2013	103	30	0	133	86	22	76	14	88%	64%	
Michigan	2015	2	45	0	47	0	31	0	30	n/a	97%	
Nebraska	2015	6	2	1	9	3	1	3	1	100%	100%	
New Hampshire	2013	186	8	30	224	151	6	110	6	73%	100%	
Pennsylvania	2013	67	45	4	116	59	42	52	38	88%	90%	
Rhode Island	2014	91	9	1	101	85	9	76	8	89%	89%	
South Dakota	2015	13	6	1	20	8	3	7	3	88%	100%	
Utah	2015	10	3	0	13	9	3	9	2	100%	67%	
Virginia	2013	46	5	1	52	40	4	40	4	100%	100%	
Vermont	2013	106	5	7	118	87	5	80	5	92%	100%	
Washington	2015	53	9	1	63	43	7	43	6	100%	86%	
Wyoming	2013	9	3	0	12	7	3	6	2	86%	67%	
Total		965	210	50	1,225	816	173	730	149	89%	86%	

How State Legislators Fared In Their 2016 Primaries After Voting on a State Gas Tax Increase

state	Total Votes on Gas Tax					Election Results					
	Year the bill was passed	Total "Yes" Votes	Total "No" Votes	Vote not cast	Total Votes	"Yes" votes that ran for reelection	"No" votes that ran for reelection	"Yes" votes that won reelection	"No" votes that won reelection	Percent of "Yes" votes that won reelection	Percent of "No" votes that won reelection
Georgia	2015	171	53	12	236	149	47	145	47	97%	100%
Iowa	2015	81	67	2	150	54	55	54	54	100%	98%
Idaho	2015	77	28	0	105	67	27	64	23	96%	85%
Michigan	2015	75	70	0	145	29	36	29	36	100%	100%
Nebraska	2015	30	16	2	48	7	5	7	5	100%	100%
South Dakota	2015	80	19	5	104	49	13	47	13	96%	100%
Utah	2015	64	37	3	104	43	26	43	25	100%	96%
Washington	2015	93	53	1	147	57	40	57	39	100%	98%
Total		671	343	25	1,039	455	249	446	242	98%	97%