

★★ ATTORNEY RICHARD ★★  
**BOYKIN**  
FOR COOK COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT  
**DEMOCRAT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

Communications

[info@richardboykinforcookcounty.com](mailto:info@richardboykinforcookcounty.com)

(202)230-8578

## Boykin Stands with Pres. Biden on Temporary Suspension of Gas, Diesel Taxes

**COOK COUNTY (June 23, 2022)** | It's not just drivers who are paying attention to high gasoline and diesel prices, politicians are too. That increased scrutiny is leading to efforts to bring taxpayers relief.

President Joe Biden on Wednesday called on Congress to suspend federal gasoline and diesel taxes for three months. The Democratic president also called on states to suspend their own gas taxes or provide similar relief, and he delivered a public critique of the energy industry for prioritizing profits over production.

Cook County Board President, Toni Preckwinkle, says a temporary gasoline suspension is "[bad policy](#)" and "[shortsided](#)". She asserts that suspending the gas tax will negatively impact county revenue. Her opponent in the June 28 primary disagrees.

Richard Boykin, former commissioner, and candidate for Cook County Board President, is a staunch proponent of a temporary suspension of the gas and diesel tax.

The Democratic candidate said, "[We need to give residents relief at the pump](#), he added, "Cook County is now in a strong position to be able to afford to take action thanks to the \$1 billion the county received in federal support from the 2021 COVID-19 relief funds."

Boykin says there's plenty of opportunity, given that gas is taxed at near every level of government, such that someone who fills their tank at a gas station in Chicago will pay a composite tax of approximately 72 cents a gallon:

- 18.4 cents per gallon at the federal level
- 39.2 cents per gallon at the state level;
- 6 cents per gallon by Cook County,
- 8 cents per gallon by Chicago,
- The composite tax does not include the states 6.25 percent sales tax, also levied on gasoline

"If President Preckwinkle and the county commissioners see fit to give themselves a salary raise in perpetuity, to the tune of more than half a million, they should strongly consider giving residents temporary relief at the pump."

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