ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2026-235
May 5, 2026

STATE OF EMERGENCY

In Kentucky, we are reigniting the American Dream. But rising gas prices caused by the war in Iran are threatening that Dream for our Kentucky and American families. President Trump promised Americans a swift end to the war in Iran and the re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz. However, the war continues and the Strait remains either closed or traffic has been dramatically reduced. The President's and Vice President's negotiations to reopen the Strait have failed. The President now says the conflict may continue indefinitely. Experts suggest even once over, it may take six months to remove damaging mines in the Strait.

The President's conflict has resulted in the Federal Reserve's inflation gauge reaching its highest mark in nearly three years, and oil prices hitting a wartime and four-year high last week. According to the Automobile Association of America ("AAA"), as of May 5, 2026, the average price of gas in Kentucky was $4.28 per gallon, up from $2.86 the year before. The average price for Kentucky reached as high as $4.98 per gallon in April. Louisville's gas prices jumped nearly 35 cents within the past week and media there reported in April that some gas stations saw prices rise nearly 40 cents overnight.

The AAA national average gas price was $4.48 per gallon on May 5, 2026 – up from $2.98 per gallon before the war in Iran began. That national average rose more than 38 cents within the past week, with the May 5th average up from $4.11 the month before and $3.16 the previous year.

The "pain at the pump" is hurting Kentucky families.

Rising fuel costs are driving price increases on food, consumer goods, and other services that travel over our roads and highways to make it to grocery stores and eventually our kitchen tables.

To help provide some relief to Kentuckians, I am taking the following actions.

I am issuing an executive order to freeze any increase in motor vehicle property taxes in 2027.

I am strongly urging leadership of the United States Congress and our Kentucky congressional delegation to suspend the federal gas tax until the end of the year.

I am freezing the gas tax through an emergency administrative regulation promulgated by the Kentucky Department of Revenue, keeping it from automatically increasing on July 1, 2026, which should save Kentuckians about $1.7 million per month.

I took these actions after successfully asking the United States Environmental Protection Agency to remove the reformulated gasoline requirements for Jefferson County, a portion of Oldham County and a portion of Bullitt County, to relieve Kentuckians in those counties from the additional 10 to 35 cents per gallon at the pump. The federal government's reformulated gas requirements, in place for more than 30 years, will end on May 27, 2026, and will save drivers in those counties about $137 million a year.

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Pending sign off by the Attorney General, I am reducing the gas tax in KRS 138.220(1)(a) by 10 cents ($0.10) per gallon, effective May 11, 2026, which should save Kentuckians nearly $27 million over a month. This reduction shall apply to the State gas tax and the State tax on diesel fuel and other special fuels. I am also implementing the price gouging statutes to enforce the gas tax reduction so providers do not simply keep the 10 cents per gallon for themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of Kentucky and KRS Chapters 39A and 367, do hereby **DECLARE** a State of Emergency relating to gas prices in the Commonwealth and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** the following:

1. Pursuant to KRS 39A.180(2)(b), KRS 138.220(1)(a) and (4) shall be suspended, and the State tax on all gasoline, diesel fuel and other special fuels shall be reduced by 10 cents ($0.10) for the duration of the State of Emergency and any extensions of the State of Emergency. This part shall take effect on May 11, 2026, if the Attorney General signs off on this suspension of statutes to help save Kentuckians about $27 million per month at the pump.

2. Pursuant to KRS Chapters 367 and 39A, I hereby implement the provisions of KRS 367.372, *et seq.* as to the sale of goods and services, specifically gasoline or other motor fuels, as follows:

   a. No person, within the meaning of KRS 446.010, shall sell or offer to sell gasoline or other motor fuels, *see* KRS 367.374(1)(b)1, at a price grossly in excess of the price prior to the declaration of this State of Emergency;

   b. The foregoing is subject to the qualifications and limitations set forth otherwise in KRS 367.372, *et seq.*, with regard to increased costs to sellers *inter alia*;

   c. Any person who violates the provisions of KRS 367.372, *et seq.*, as implemented by this Order, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in KRS 367.378 or other applicable law; and

   d. The Division of Emergency Management shall immediately notify the public and those registered with the Division for the purpose of receiving notice of the implementation, renewal, or termination of the provisions of this Order relating to KRS 367.374. The Division shall notify the public by any means available, including the Division's website, news media, and electronic mail. Any person or trade association may register with the Division for the purpose of receiving notification.

This order shall be effective May 11, 2026.

ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2026-235
May 5, 2026

ANDY BESHEAR, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

MICHAEL G. ADAMS
Secretary of State

RECEIVED AND FILED

DATE May 5, 2026

MICHAEL G. ADAMS

SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BY Katherine Ellis

RUSSELL COLEMAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

EXECUTIVE ORDER

2026-01
May 7, 2025

Whereas, Kentucky led the charge against the Biden Administration's nonsensical green agenda that threatened to drive gas-powered cars off the road and raise costs for Kentucky families;

Whereas, the Attorney General's Office has partnered with President Trump to unleash American energy dominance, including with Kentucky coal;

Whereas, Kentucky has gone to court to defend President Trump's effort to repeal the legal underpinning of the disastrous Green New Deal, the EPA's electric vehicle mandates, and the so-called Clean Power Plan;

Whereas, the Attorney General's Office worked with Kentucky partners and President Trump's EPA to cut gas prices through removal of a decades-old reformulated gas requirement in Jefferson, Bullitt, and Oldham counties;

Whereas, the Attorney General has a statutory duty to promote affordable and reliable energy for Kentucky families, with an emphasis on protecting Kentuckians' wallets and the Commonwealth's competitive advantage;

Whereas, Kentucky won a major victory at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit – one step below the U.S. Supreme Court – rejecting the Biden EPA's attempt to overreach into the Commonwealth's stewardship of its air quality;

Whereas, while the Attorney General does not agree with the overtly partisan posturing in Governor Beshear's executive order, the Attorney General supports lowering the price of gas for Kentuckians, as his many above-referenced actions show;

Whereas, the Governor has issued Executive Order 2026-235, which in relevant part suspends the operation of KRS 138.220(1)(a) and (4) for the duration of the declared state of emergency under Executive Order 2026-235;

Whereas, KRS 39A.180(2)(b) provides that the Governor may suspend a statute by executive order when an emergency is declared if the statute to be suspended is specifically enumerated by the Governor in the executive order and the executive order specifying the suspension is approved by the Attorney General in writing;

Whereas, KRS 39A.090(2) provides that "executive orders, administrative regulations, or other directives issued under this chapter by the Governor" shall be in effect no longer than thirty (30) days unless otherwise approved by the General Assembly or requested by certain local government officials; and, Whereas, I have reviewed Executive Order 2026-235 and find that the suspension of KRS 138.220(1)(a) and (4) as provided for therein is not an unreasonable exercise of the Governor's authority under KRS 39A.180(2)(b).

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by KRS 39A.180(2)(b), I, Russell Coleman, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby **APPROVE** the suspension of KRS 138.220(1)(a) and (4) as reflected in Executive Order 2026-235 for a period consistent with KRS 39A.090(2).

So **ORDERED** this the 7th day of May, 2026.

Russell M. Coleman

RUSSELL COLEMAN,
Attorney General
Commonwealth of Kentucky

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MAY 07 2026
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KY