

Rhett Marques (AL-02) Research Report

Significant Findings

Marques Praised A Federal Spending Plan That Was Projected To Kick More Than 22,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In AL-02, Threaten Food Assistance For More Than 55,000 Households, And Risk The Closure Of Two Rural Hospitals In The District, To Give Tax Cuts To The Rich

- ✓ 2025: Marques praised the federal spending plan for providing “tax relief to Americans.”
- ✓ The federal spending plan enacted the largest cuts to Medicaid in history, slashing local hospital revenue, and was projected to kick more than 22,000 people in AL-02 off their health insurance.
- ✓ The federal spending plan enacted the largest SNAP cuts in history, threatening food assistance for more than 55,000 households in AL-02.
- ✓ The federal spending plan gave billions in tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy at the expense of working families.
- ✓ The federal spending plan would add \$3.4 trillion to the national debt.
- ✓ The federal spending plan made health care more expensive for seniors and older Americans.
- ✓ The federal spending plan cut crucial health and nutrition resources for rural Americans, risking the closure of two rural hospitals in AL-02.
- ✓ The federal spending plan’s cuts to SNAP eliminated sources of revenue for farmers.

Marques Opposed Legislation That Protected Alabamians With Preexisting Conditions And Supported The Expiration Of Health Care Tax Credits That Was Projected To Drive Up Health Care Costs For More Than 72,000 Alabamians In AL-02

- ✓ 2026: Marques blamed the rising health care costs on the Affordable Care Act, saying it started the “crisis with the health care system.”
- ✓ The Affordable Care Act guaranteed protections for people with preexisting conditions, and provided nearly 500,000 Alabamians with coverage through the marketplace.
- ✓ 2025: Marques praised the federal spending plan which let ACA tax credits expire.
- ✓ The expiration of ACA tax credits were projected to drive up annual premiums from \$178 to \$684 for ACA marketplace plans in Alabama, which covered more than 72,000 people in AL-02.

Marques Repeatedly Voted To Make Life More Expensive As An Alabama State Representative And Enterprise City Councilmember, Voting To Raise Gas Taxes, Add Fees, And Increase The Sales Tax For Alabamians

- ✓ In the Alabama House of Representatives, Marques voted for higher gas taxes, increased vehicle fees, and a new Houston County probate transaction fee.
- ✓ 2024-2025: Marques voted to create new motor vehicle registration fees and raise license tag fees in Butler, Elmore, and Coffee counties.
- ✓ 2019: Marques voted for a 10 cent gas tax increase, and said, “You know, it wasn’t easy. Nobody likes to raise taxes.”

- ✓ 2019: Marques voted to enact a \$5 fee for all transactions in Houston County involving the probate court, recording, licenses, and tags.
- ✓ As an Enterprise City Councilmember, Marques voted to increase the city's sales tax from 8.5% to 9%.

Marques Said His Priority Was Making Life Affordable, But Supported Reckless Policies That Raised Gas Prices, Worsened Inflation, And Made Life More Expensive For Alabamians

- ✓ 2026: Marques said "Making life affordable again for hardworking Alabama families will be my top priority in Congress" and "Our families deserve better at the grocery store, at the gas pump, and when trying to afford a home."
- ✓ 2026: Marques called the Iran war a "necessary and justified mission" and said the war would "quickly come to fruition"; as of July 2026, U.S. military involvement continued in Iran.
 - ✓ The Iran war raised gas prices on American consumers and caused "out of control" inflation, pushing average gas prices in Alabama to nearly \$4 a gallon in July 2026.
- ✓ 2026: Marques was endorsed by House Republican leadership who repeatedly voted to extend tariffs.
- ✓ Reckless tariffs cost Alabama families thousands of dollars a year, raised the costs of everyday goods, and worsened inflation.

Marques Celebrated The Supreme Court's Decision To Allow The Disenfranchisement Of Black Voters In Alabama, And As A Member Of The State Legislature And Candidate For Congress, Said He Personally Would Have Voted To Eliminate Every Majority-Black District In The State

- ✓ 2026: Marques praised the Supreme Court's decisions to allow Alabama to use a congressional map that eliminated a majority-Black district, which Republican judges admitted was "intentionally discriminatory."
- ✓ 2026: Marques abstained from voting to approve Alabama's 6-1 redistricting plan, but said he would have voted no and held out for a 7-0 map to "to maximize the number of Republican seats in Congress," which would leave Alabama without a single majority-Black district.
 - ✓ May 2026: Marques abstained from voting on H.B. 1, the Alabama Republican redistricting plan, saying that he wanted to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest...
 - ✓ ... But Marques said he would have voted against H.B. 1 because it "fails to maximize the number of Republican seats in Congress" and "Alabamians deserve congressional representation that reflects who we are: a proudly conservative, red state. That means 7-0 map, not 6-1."
 - ✓ The Guardian: Alabama congressional maps designed to maximize Republican gains eliminated Black-majority districts.
 - ✓ Days later, Marques later claimed his abstention was "stand[ing] with President Trump for a 7-0 Republican map."

Marques Voted To Establish A School Voucher Program In Alabama, Which Took Away Nearly \$300 Million In Taxpayer Dollars From Public Schools To Fund Private Schools And Was Set To Benefit The Wealthiest Alabamians Beginning In The 2027-2028 School Year

- ✓ 2024: Marques voted for H.B. 129, a bill establishing a school "voucher-like program," providing families up to \$7,000 on private school tuition and up to \$4,000 on homeschooling expenses.
- ✓ In the 2025-2027 school years, H.B. 129 took nearly \$300 million in funding away from Alabama public schools.
 - ✓ The CHOOSE Act took money out of the Education Trust Fund, which paid for Alabama's K-12 schools, colleges, and universities.

- ✓ In the 2026-2027 school year, H.B. 129 took \$174 million away from Alabama public schools.
- ✓ In the 2025-2026 school year, H.B. 129 took more than \$124 million away from Alabama public schools.
- ✓ Critics called H.B. 129 “new segregation” and opposed using public dollars for private schools; Alabama Daily News reported that CHOOSE Act applicants were more likely to be white and less likely to be Black compared to Alabama’s public school population.
- ✓ Most applications for H.B. 129 were from students already in private schools or were homeschooled, and starting in the 2027-2028 school year, household income caps would be lifted, benefiting the wealthiest Alabamian families.
- ✓ 2025: Two-thirds of applicants for the CHOOSE Act used the money for private school tuition or were homeschooled.
- ✓ Governor Ivey announced starting in the 2027-2028 school year, household income limits requirements for the CHOOSE Act would be removed, allowing the wealthiest Alabamians using taxpayer dollars to pay for their children’s private school tuition.

Marques Voted To Ban Public Funding For DEI Programs, Shutting Down Resources For Black Students In The University Of Alabama System, And To Allow State Agencies To Fire Employees Who Discussed So-Called “Divisive Concepts” Such As Racism And Sexism

- ✓ 2024: Marques voted for S.B. 129, a bill to ban public funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in public universities and allow state agencies to fire employees who discussed so-called “divisive concepts” such as racism and sexism.
- ✓ The University of Alabama system shut down its DEI offices and revoked funding for Black student organizations after S.B. 129 passed, leaving Black students with “no place to go” after the Black Student Union office was closed to comply with the law.
- ✓ July 2024: The University of Alabama system and Jacksonville State University closed their DEI offices to comply with S.B. 129.
- ✓ August 2024: After S.B. 129 passed, the University of Alabama shut down the Black Student Union’s office in the student center and the university’s Black Student Association was forced to seek program funding from outside groups.
- ✓ University of Alabama system students and professors said S.B. 129 had “detrimental effects” on higher education in Alabama, describing “a climate of fear on campus”; a student alleged her stipend was revoked as a result of the anti-DEI law.
- ✓ ACLU of Alabama strongly condemned S.B. 129, calling it a “censorship bill” that “curtails an education [...] on racial violence and the historic efforts to gain civil rights.”
- ✓ The Alabama NAACP alleged S.B. 129 law violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and First Amendment by discriminating against minority students and faculty.

Marques Abstained From Voting On A Bipartisan Animal Welfare Statute Requiring Dog Owners To Provide Dogs With Access To Food, Shelter, And Clean Water, And Later Refused To Publicly Respond To A Supporter Who Asked Him About His Abstention On The Bill

- ✓ April 2026: Marques abstained from voting on Beau’s Law, a bipartisan animal welfare statute that required dog owners to provide dogs with access to food, shelter, and clean water and banned the use of inhumane choke collars.
- ✓ April 2026: Marques refused to publicly respond to a supporter who questioned his decision to abstain from the voting on Beau’s Law.

Marques Showed Disdain For Alabamians, Suggesting They “Do Not Understand How Local Bills Work” And Did Not Have “That Much Disposable Income” Compared To Floridians

- ✓ 2026: Marques suggested Alabamians did not understand the state legislative process, saying “These people do not understand how local bills work.”
- ✓ 2021: Marques suggested a state-run lottery would not generate “two to three hundred million” because “Alabama typically does not have that much disposable income” compared to Florida.

Marques Praised A Federal Spending Plan That Was Projected To Kick More Than 22,000 People Off Their Health Insurance In AL-02, Threaten Food Assistance For More Than 55,000 Households, And Risk The Closure Of Two Rural Hospitals In The District, To Give Tax Cuts To The Rich

2025: Marques Praised The Federal Spending Plan For Providing “Tax Relief To Americans”

2025: Marques Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill For Providing “Tax Relief To Americans.” “State Rep. Rhett Marques of Enterprise has landed an endorsement from his colleagues in the race for Congress in Alabama's 1st district. Alabama House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter and 31 other Republican representatives announced their support for Marques. ‘I am honored to have the support of so many of the men and women that I have worked with in the legislature,’ Marques said in a press release. ‘While President Trump was providing tax relief to Americans with the One Big Beautiful Bill, we were working on the state level in the Alabama legislature slashing the state tax on groceries, eliminating the state tax on diapers and baby supplies that are critical for young families, and implementing a substantial tax relief package providing relief for our seniors.’” [AL.com, [9/9/25](#)]

The Federal Spending Plan Enacted The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In History, Slashing Local Hospital Revenue, And Was Projected To Kick More Than 22,000 People In AL-02 Off Their Health Insurance

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made The Largest Cuts To Medicaid In The Program’s History

The Hill: Republicans Passed “The Largest Cuts To Medicaid Since The Program Began In The 1960s.” “Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

- **The Hill: The Republicans’ Reconciliation Bill Made About \$1 Trillion In Cuts To Medicaid.** “Senate Republicans on Tuesday passed the largest cuts to Medicaid since the program began in the 1960s, a move that would erode the social safety net and cause a spike in the number of uninsured Americans over the next decade. The tax and spending bill is projected to cost more than \$3 trillion during that time, but it would be partially paid for with about \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid. Almost 12 million lower-income Americans would lose their health insurance by 2034, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).” [The Hill, [7/1/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Take Health Insurance Away From More Than 14 Million People

KFF: “CBO Estimates Show That The Number Of Uninsured People Will Increase By More Than 14 Million In 2034.” [KFF, [8/20/25](#)]

Rolling Stone Headline: “Congress Officially Passes Trump’s Bill To Kick Millions Off Medicaid.” [Rolling Stone, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Estimated To Kick More Than 22,000 People In AL-02 Off Their Health Insurance

September 2025: The Joint Economic Committee Minority Estimated More Than 22,233 People In Alabama's 2nd Congressional District Would Lose Health Insurance By 2034 Due To Congressional Republicans' Cuts To Medicaid And The ACA. "According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO)'s most recent analysis, President Trump and Congressional Republicans' cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would result in 16 million people losing their health insurance by 2034. Using CBO's analysis released June 4 and other research, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority calculated new estimates of the number of people who would lose health insurance." [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

AL-02: Health Insurance Losses From Cuts To Medicaid And The Affordable Care Act Under The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Est. Number of People Losing Affordable Care Act Coverage	Est. Number of People Losing Medicaid Coverage	Est. Total Number of People Losing Insurance
19,400	2,833	22,233

[Joint Economic Committee Minority, Press Release, [September 2025](#)]

NOTE: District data refers to lines before redistricting in 2026.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was Projected To Cut More Than \$13.7 Million In Revenue To Hospitals In AL-02

Under The One Big Beautiful Bill, Hospitals In AL-02 Were Projected To Lose More Than \$13.7 Million As A Result Of Medicaid Cuts. [Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

Projected Cuts To AL-02 Hospital Revenue From Medicaid Cuts In The One Big Beautiful Bill		
Hospital	City	Projected Cut To Hospital Revenue
Baptist Medical Center South	Montgomery	\$4,900,824
Southeast Health Medical Center	Dothan	\$2,357,966
Baptist Medical Center East	Montgomery	\$1,831,530
Jackson Hospital and Clinic Inc	Montgomery	\$1,732,746
Flowers Hospital	Dothan	\$1,084,962
Medical Center Enterprise	Enterprise	\$487,406
Dale Medical Center	Ozark	\$258,779
Troy Regional Medical Center	Troy	\$187,896
Wiregrass Medical Center	Geneva	\$184,809
Bullock County Hospital	Union Springs	\$151,416
Regional Medical Ctr of Central Al	Greenville	\$133,883
Jack Hughston Memorial Hospital	Phenix City	\$129,099
Community Hospital Inc.	Tallassee	\$86,093
Medical Center Barbour	Eufaula	\$78,131
Elmore Community Hospital	Wetumpka	\$67,572
Crenshaw Community Hospital	Luverne	\$30,764
Total:		\$13,703,876

[Third Way, GOP Medicaid Cuts Will Decimate Hospitals Nationwide, [7/8/25](#)]

NOTE: District data refers to lines after redistricting in 2026.

The Federal Spending Plan Enacted The Largest SNAP Cuts In History, Threatening Food Assistance For More Than 55,000 Households In AL-02

Center For American Progress: The One Big Beautiful Bill Enacted The Largest SNAP Cut In The Program's History

Center For American Progress: “The Senate Has Released Its Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Would Enact The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program's History According To Center For American Progress Estimates.” “The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program's history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version's nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

- **Axios: “The Bill Would Reduce Nutrition Funding, Which Includes SNAP, By Around \$186 Billion Between 2025 And 2034.”** “By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. While analyst's projections have fluctuated as the legislation's provisions are tweaked, analysts have indicated millions of people could be cut from SNAP under the work requirement provisions.” [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]
- **Center On Budget And Policy Priorities Headline: “House Reconciliation Bill Proposes Deepest SNAP Cut In History, Would Take Food Assistance Away From Millions of Low-Income Families.”** [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [5/28/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Cut SNAP By Around \$186 Billion. President Trump's massive tax and spending bill, which is advancing through the House after surviving its Republican push through the Senate, would slash food benefits for thousands. The big picture: It would mark a historic cut to the social safety net that Republicans claim weeds out waste, fraud and abuse — but experts say the restructuring of assistance programs could leave more people hungry and uninsured. [...] By the numbers: The bill would reduce nutrition funding, which includes SNAP, by around \$186 billion between 2025 and 2034. [Axios, [7/3/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Risked Food Assistance For More Than 55,000 Households In AL-02

According To The U.S. Department Of Agriculture, 55,107 Households Participated In Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In AL-02. [USDA, accessed [7/15/26](#)]

Who Receives SNAP?

SNAP provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budgets of low-income families so they can purchase healthy food.

In AL District 2, SNAP serves...

55,107
HOUSEHOLDS

[USDA, accessed [7/15/26](#)]

The Federal Spending Plan Gave Billions In Tax Breaks To The Ultra-Wealthy At The Expense Of Working Families

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026

Institute On Taxation And Economic Policy: The House-Passed Reconciliation Bill Would Give The Richest 1% Of Americans \$117 Billion In Net Tax Cuts In 2026. “The House of Representatives today narrowly passed a massive tax and spending reconciliation bill that now heads to President Trump’s desk. Please see below for a statement from ITEP and our latest updated analysis of how the bill’s tax provisions will affect families at different income levels nationally and in every state. [...] The richest 1 percent of Americans would receive a total of \$117 billion in net tax cuts in 2026. The middle 20 percent of taxpayers on the income scale, a group that has 20 times the number of taxpayers as the richest 1 percent, would receive less than half that much, \$53 billion in net tax cuts that year.” [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, [7/3/24](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest Giving Them Tax Cuts Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Biggest Tax Cuts Benefited The Wealthiest. “The One Big Beautiful Bill includes the largest tax cuts in U.S. history. Whether it’s actually ‘beautiful’ is in the eye of the beholder. At every income level taxes should subside. That’s a big selling point from President Donald Trump and fellow Republicans who pushed the law through Congress with no Democratic support. It will benefit everyone. But the biggest cuts go to the wealthiest taxpayers – the ones who pay the lion’s share of taxes. For most families the savings will be miniscule in comparison, in raw dollars and as a share of income. And millions will lose subsidized health insurance and other benefits. Critics see a plan that widens income inequality and, worse, offsets tax cuts for the wealthy with draconian spending cuts that hit lower-income households.” [Cronkite News, [7/16/25](#)]

The House-Passed Republican Reconciliation Bill Extended The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act Which Skewed In Favor Of The Wealthy By Providing Them Tax Cuts That Were Three Times Greater Than For Working Americans. “The tax provisions of the House Republican reconciliation bill double down on the failures of the 2017 tax law, which was skewed in favor of the richest people in the country, further eroded the nation’s revenue base, and didn’t produce the promised economic gains for working people.[1] Instead of changing course and prioritizing people with low and moderate incomes as House Republicans’ rhetoric about supporting hard-pressed working families would suggest, the House Republican tax bill only offers more of the same. The bill is heavily skewed to the wealthy: Under the bill, the top 1 percent of people would receive tax cuts three times the size of those for people with incomes in the bottom 60 percent, measured as a share of after-tax income. (See Figure 1.) The top 0.6 percent of people — the 1.2 million people with annual incomes above \$1 million — would receive more total tax cuts than the 127 million people with incomes below \$100,000. [...] The bill extends and expands the 2017 tax law’s increase in the estate tax exemption, boosting the cut in estate taxes for the 1 in 1,000 wealthiest estates to \$6.3 million.[3] Next year a couple could pass on an estate worth up to \$30 million tax free, \$1.7 million more than under a simple extension of the 2017 law.” [CBPP, [5/22/25](#)]

CBS: “Like Penn Wharton, Other Researchers Have Said The Republican Bill Is Likely To Benefit Wealthy Americans At The Expense Of People Lower Down The Ladder.” “Like Penn Wharton, other researchers have said the Republican bill is likely to benefit wealthy Americans at the expense of people lower down the ladder. The measure would likely reduce the financial resources available to the lowest-earning 10% of U.S. households by \$1,600 per year, or almost 4% of their annual income, according to a report published earlier this month by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. White House officials have previously questioned the CBO’s scoring of the bill. But the highest-earning 10% of households would see a gain of \$12,000 per year in resources, while middle-income households would see a gain of \$500 to \$1,000, the CBO projected. Its analysis is based on the bill’s tax breaks, as well as reductions for federal programs and reductions in state funds for safety net programs such as Medicaid and food stamps. In considering the impact of higher U.S. debt on future generations, the cost would come in the form of lower wages and higher costs, such as more expensive mortgages, Smetters said.” [CBS News, [6/26/25](#)]

The Hill: “The Republicans’ ‘Big, Beautiful Bill’ Will Make The Poorest Americans Even Poorer, While Padding The Wallets Of The Highest Earners The Most, According To An Analysis Released Monday By Congress’s Budget Arm.” “The Republicans’ ‘big, beautiful bill’ will make the poorest Americans even poorer, while padding the wallets of the highest earners the most, according to an analysis released Monday by Congress’s budget arm. The assessment, conducted by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) at the request of top

Democrats, found that the top 10 percent of earners in the country will see an average boost of \$13,600 per year over the next decade as a direct result of provisions in the law, while the bottom 10 percent will see an average annual decrease of \$1,200. The report challenges the arguments made by President Trump and other Republicans that the massive domestic policy package would benefit workers at all levels of wealth and income. And it's given fuel to the attacks from Democrats that the legislation was, all along, designed to help the wealthiest people at the expense of the working poor." [The Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

- **The Hill Headline: "Budget Office Says GOP's 'Big, Beautiful Bill' Will Make Rich Richer, Poor Poorer."** [The Hill, [8/11/25](#)]

The Federal Spending Plan Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Decade

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion To The National Debt Over The Next Ten Years. "President Donald Trump's 'big, beautiful bill,' which he signed into law this month, will add \$3.4 trillion to the U.S. national debt over the next decade, according to a report the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office published Monday." [NBC News, [7/21/25](#)]

The Federal Spending Plan Made Health Care More Expensive For Seniors And Older Americans

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Force Nearly \$500 Billion In Medicare Cuts Over The Next Ten Years

The Big Beautiful Bill Would Require Automatic Sequestration Cuts That Would Cause \$490 Billion In Cuts To Medicare Over The Next Ten Years. "Because of a statutory requirement to automatically impose budget cuts when legislation increases the deficit, the Big Beautiful Bill would require automatic sequestration cuts across the board, something that has been confirmed by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) but has been largely absent from the debate over the bill. Medicare is one of the programs that will face the axe, and the damage sums to \$490 billion over the next ten years, starting in the next fiscal year that begins in October. While many of the safety-net cuts in the bill are delayed to help Republicans with their re-election campaigns, the Medicare cuts must begin next year." [The American Prospect, [7/3/25](#)]

The Republican Reconciliation Bill Could Force Nearly \$500 Billion In Medicare Cuts. "President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans' mammoth tax and immigration bill would add so much to the national debt that it could force nearly \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare beginning in 2026, Congress's nonpartisan bookkeeper reported late Tuesday." [Washington Post, [5/21/25](#)]

- **Washington Post Headline: "Trump And GOP's Tax Bill Would Force Cuts To Medicare, CBO Says."** [Washington Post, [5/21/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made Health Care More Expensive For Seniors On Medicare

Center For American Progress Headline: "House Republicans' Big, 'Beautiful' Bill Would Make Health Care More Expensive For Americans With Medicare And Other Insurance." [Center for American Progress, [6/12/25](#)]

- **Costs Would Increase For Americans With Medicaid, Medicare, ACA Marketplace Plans, And Job-Based Insurance.** "The House Republican-passed tax and budget reconciliation bill would increase health care costs for many Americans with Medicaid, Medicare, ACA marketplace plans, and job-based insurance. Individuals and families could face steep increases in premiums, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses, amounting to thousands of dollars per year." [Center for American Progress, [6/12/25](#)]

CBPP: The Republican Reconciliation Bill Would Terminate Cost-Sharing Assistance For 1.4 Million Seniors Dually Eligible For Medicaid And Medicare Resulting In Higher Out-Of-Pocket Costs. “The House Republicans’ bill includes provisions that will add burdens for seniors, contributing to coverage losses and higher costs. One such provision would block implementation of a rule designed to make it easier for low-income seniors and people with disabilities who receive Medicare to access Medicare Savings Programs, a part of state Medicaid programs that help pay people’s Medicare premiums and cost-sharing charges. According to data from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), roughly 1.4 million people who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare would no longer receive this cost-sharing assistance and would therefore face increased out-of-pocket costs under the bill.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Made Health Care More Expensive For Older Americans On ACA Marketplace Plans

Center For American Progress Headline: “Older Adults With ACA Coverage Would Face Steep Premium Hikes Under House Republicans’ One Big Beautiful Bill Act.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

- **The House Republican Proposal Would Effectively Price Many Aging Americans Out Of Their Affordable Coverage That They Have Relied On.** “These sharp cost increases represent a real threat to older adults’ ability to access health care. If enacted, the House Republican proposal would effectively price many aging Americans out of the affordable coverage they rely on until they become eligible for Medicare.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

The Republican Reconciliation Bill Would Increase The Costs For Older Adults In The ACA Marketplace. “Another element of House Republicans’ health agenda targets the ACA marketplaces, which provide coverage and financial assistance to more than 20 million people, including many older people not yet eligible for Medicare. The legislation not only fails to extend the expiring enhanced premium tax credits for marketplace coverage, which will lead to skyrocketing premiums, but it also makes changes that will further increase people’s costs, such as changing how maximum out-of-pocket limits are adjusted.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

Older Adults Would Face, On Average, At Least A \$1,200 Increase In Annual Premiums To Keep Their Current ACA Marketplace Plan. “Last month, House Republicans passed a tax and budget reconciliation bill that, if enacted, would raise health insurance premiums for millions of Americans who purchase coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces. A new Center for American Progress analysis makes clear that older adults would be hit especially hard—facing, on average, at least \$1,200 more in annual premiums to keep their current ACA marketplace plan. In multiple states, premium hikes for adults 55 years old and older would exceed an average of \$10,000—including a staggering \$15,200 average increase in West Virginia and a \$16,700 average increase in Alaska.” [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

CBPP: The Big Beautiful Bill Would Leave Older Adults With Higher Costs And Less Health Care. “The House Republicans’ budget reconciliation legislation would reduce assistance that helps seniors and older adults get needed health coverage and afford sufficient food. The so-called ‘Big Beautiful Bill’ is anything but beautiful; it would cause widespread harm by making massive cuts to Medicaid and SNAP, which would raise costs and make it much harder for people to afford the high cost of groceries and health care. More than 7 million seniors with low incomes receive health coverage and care through Medicaid, with over 3 in 5 nursing home residents having their care paid for by Medicaid. Medicaid also covers other long-term services and supports, including home-based services, and helps cover premiums, deductibles, and cost sharing for some Medicare beneficiaries. By cutting Medicaid and Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplaces by about \$1 trillion, the largest cuts in the programs’ history, the House Republican bill would lead states to make large cuts in eligibility or benefits that could leave many older adults with higher costs and less health care.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

- **Center On Budget And Policy Priorities Headline: “2025 Budget Impacts: House Bill Would Cut Assistance And Raise Costs For Seniors.”** [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Lower Safety And Quality Standards For Nursing Homes

The Republican Reconciliation Bill Would Lower Safety And Quality Standards For Nursing Homes. “The House Republican reconciliation bill would rescind a rule providing for minimum staffing standards for nursing homes. Lowering these standards would set back efforts to ensure safe, quality care for seniors and other people who need nursing facility services.” [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/6/25](#)]

The Federal Spending Plan Cut Crucial Health And Nutrition Resources For Rural Americans, Risking The Closure Of Two Rural Hospitals In AL-02

The Reconciliation Bill’s Cuts To Medicaid Would Particularly Impact Rural Communities

NBC News Headline: “Rural Communities Brace For Medicaid Cuts In Republicans’ Big Bill.” [NBC News, [6/25/25](#)]

The Big Beautiful Bill Act Would Result In 1.8 Million Individuals In Rural Communities Losing Their Medicaid Coverage. “Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a \$50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years.” [American Hospital Association, [6/16/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Threatened The Closure Of Vital Rural Hospitals, Including Community Hospital Inc. And Bullock County Hospital

The One Big Beautiful Bill’s Cuts To Medicaid Would Result In A \$50.4 Billion Reduction In Funding For Rural Hospitals

Rural Hospitals Would Collectively Lose More Than \$1.8 Billion In Funding, Which Would Be Equivalent To 21,000 Full-Time Hospital Employees’ Salaries. “Hospitals in rural areas would collectively lose more than \$1.8 billion with a 15% cut to Medicaid. That loss in revenue is roughly equivalent to 21,000 full-time hospital employees’ salaries. Rural hospitals’ margins have been deteriorating for 10 to 15 years, said Michael Topchik, executive director for the Chartis Center for Rural Health, which analyzes and consults on rural hospital finances. Ten years ago, about one-third of rural hospitals were operating in the red. That’s closer to 50% now, he said.” [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

- **KFF Headline: “‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ Would Batter Rural Hospital Finances, Researchers Say.”** [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Would Result In \$50.4 Billion Reduction In Spending For Rural Hospitals Over The Next Ten Years. “Medicaid, which covers over 16 million people in rural communities, helps address barriers to health care and sustain rural hospitals. But many in Congress are considering Medicaid cuts that would have a devastating impact on rural hospitals and patients. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) would result in 1.8 million individuals in rural communities losing their Medicaid coverage by 2034. In addition, select Medicaid provisions in H.R. 1 would result in a \$50.4 billion reduction in federal Medicaid spending on rural hospitals over 10 years.” [American Hospital Association, [6/16/25](#)]

The One Big Beautiful Bill Threatened More Than 300 Rural Hospital Closures

The Cuts To Medicaid And Other Federal Health Programs In President Trump’s Budget Plan Would “Rapidly Push” More Than 300 Financially Struggling Rural Hospitals Toward A Fiscal Cliff. “Cuts to Medicaid and other federal health programs proposed in President Donald Trump’s budget plan would rapidly push

more than 300 financially struggling rural hospitals toward a fiscal cliff, according to researchers who track the facilities' finances. The hospitals would be at a disproportionate risk of closure, service reductions, or ending inpatient care, according to a report authored by experts from the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research following a request from Senate Democrats, who released the findings publicly Thursday. Many of those hospitals are in Kentucky, Louisiana, California, and Oklahoma, according to the analysis." [KFF, [6/12/25](#)]

2025: AL-02 Had Two Rural Hospitals Listed As At-Risk Based On Financial Vulnerability. "In order to understand in greater detail how rural communities could be impacted by health care cuts contained in the reconciliation package, we requested the attached data from the Sheps Center on the financial vulnerability of rural hospitals and potential impacts on their viability. These hospitals have been identified as at-risk hospitals based on financial data, including: whether the hospital has been unprofitable for the last three years; whether the hospital is at risk of financial distress relative to peer hospitals; and whether the hospital serves a disproportionately high share of Medicaid patients. The findings demonstrate that hundreds of rural hospitals across the country would feel pain from the House-passed reconciliation bill." [Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, Letter on Rural Hospitals, [6/12/25](#)]

At-Risk Rural Hospitals In AL-02, 2025			
Hospital	City	Top Medicaid Provider	Three Consecutive Years Of Negative Margins
Community Hospital Inc.	Tallassee	No	Yes
Bullock County Hospital	Union Springs	Yes	No

[Office of Senator Edward J. Markey, At-Risk Rural Hospitals List, [6/12/25](#)]

NOTE: District data refers to lines after redistricting in 2026.

Rural Hospital Closures Would Lead To Increased Unemployment. "Rural hospital closures often raise concerns about access to care and the local economy. When a rural hospital closes, patients may have to travel further to obtain services, which could lead some to forgo care altogether. Closures may be especially problematic for people who have difficulty traveling long distances and for people with time-sensitive conditions, such as heart attacks and childbirth. Research suggests that rural hospital closures lead to increased unemployment (including among non-healthcare industries), lower income levels, and slower economic growth." [KFF, [4/16/25](#)]

The Reconciliation Bill's Cuts To SNAP Would Disproportionately Impact Rural Communities

Center For American Progress: "The Senate Has Released Its Version Of The One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Which Would Enact The Largest Cut To The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) In The Program's History According To Center For American Progress Estimates." "The Senate has released its version of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which would enact the largest cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the program's history according to Center for American Progress estimates. Despite the proposal cutting less than the House-passed version's nearly \$300 billion in cuts, it is even more extreme than the House version in some key aspects. Moreover, this legislation comes at a time when food insecurity is rising across all 50 states, reaching levels not seen since 2014." [Center for American Progress, [6/26/25](#)]

NC Newsline: "GOP Cuts To Food Assistance Would Hit Rural America Especially Hard." [NC Newsline, [6/5/25](#)]

The Federal Spending Plan's Cuts To SNAP Eliminated Sources Of Revenue For Farmers

Farmers, Grocers, And Retailers Relied On SNAP Benefits To Sustain Their Business. "Last month, House Republicans passed the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act,' a budget bill which slashes essential programs for millions of Americans in order to extend tax cuts and create new ones that will enrich millionaires, billionaires and corporations. This bill was made through the reconciliation process, which allows for the passage of fiscal legislation and can be a tool for the party in power when they have a slim majority (as Republicans currently do),

because it isn't subject to the delay tactic of the filibuster in the Senate. Under this budget bill, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as 'Food Stamps'), which provides food benefits to 42 million low-income Americans to supplement their grocery budget, would see the deepest cuts in history. The Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan organization in charge of quantifying the impact of policies on the federal budget, estimates that over the next ten years this reconciliation bill will result in nearly \$294 billion in food assistance reductions. In total, more than 3 million adults and 2 million children would be directly impacted and lose benefits. [...] SNAP is an important economic multiplier, meaning that each dollar spent returns that dollar and more to the local economy. SNAP helps create thriving local communities, jobs and impacts our national GDP positively. Meanwhile, the agricultural subsidies that this bill pays for would serve a relatively small number of large-scale commodity farmers – small and mid-sized farmers who grow fruits and vegetables would not see benefits from this bill. Because SNAP recipients use their benefits at local businesses, every one dollar in SNAP benefits generates approximately \$1.50 in local economic activity. Farmers, grocers and retailers across the country rely on SNAP benefits to sustain their businesses. Thousands of farmers markets are sites for redeeming benefits from food assistance programs, including SNAP. In 2020 \$33 million in SNAP benefits were redeemed at farmers markets (USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 2021)." [Farm Aid, Farm Policy, [6/9/25](#)]

- **2020: \$33 Million In SNAP Benefits Were Redeemed At Farmers Markets.** "Last month, House Republicans passed the 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act,' a budget bill which slashes essential programs for millions of Americans in order to extend tax cuts and create new ones that will enrich millionaires, billionaires and corporations. This bill was made through the reconciliation process, which allows for the passage of fiscal legislation and can be a tool for the party in power when they have a slim majority (as Republicans currently do), because it isn't subject to the delay tactic of the filibuster in the Senate. Under this budget bill, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as 'Food Stamps'), which provides food benefits to 42 million low-income Americans to supplement their grocery budget, would see the deepest cuts in history. The Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan organization in charge of quantifying the impact of policies on the federal budget, estimates that over the next ten years this reconciliation bill will result in nearly \$294 billion in food assistance reductions. In total, more than 3 million adults and 2 million children would be directly impacted and lose benefits. [...] SNAP is an important economic multiplier, meaning that each dollar spent returns that dollar and more to the local economy. SNAP helps create thriving local communities, jobs and impacts our national GDP positively. Meanwhile, the agricultural subsidies that this bill pays for would serve a relatively small number of large-scale commodity farmers – small and mid-sized farmers who grow fruits and vegetables would not see benefits from this bill. Because SNAP recipients use their benefits at local businesses, every one dollar in SNAP benefits generates approximately \$1.50 in local economic activity. Farmers, grocers and retailers across the country rely on SNAP benefits to sustain their businesses. Thousands of farmers markets are sites for redeeming benefits from food assistance programs, including SNAP. In 2020 \$33 million in SNAP benefits were redeemed at farmers markets (USDA Food and Nutrition Service, 2021)." [Farm Aid, Farm Policy, [6/9/25](#)]
- **Farm Aid Headline: "The 'One Big Beautiful Bill Act' Hurts Farmers And Communities."** [Farm Aid, Farm Policy, [6/9/25](#)]
- **USDA: SNAP Was An Economic Multiplier And The Economic Impact Of The Program Extended Beyond The Initial Purchase Of Food.** "USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the Nation's largest food assistance program. In fiscal year 2018, SNAP served an average 40.3 million people per month and issued \$60.9 billion in benefits to be spent in food stores authorized to accept SNAP benefits. The primary goal of SNAP is to provide low-income households with additional resources for buying food. But SNAP also serves as an automatic stabilizer for the economy. For example, during an economic downturn, when unemployment increases and wages fall, more individuals become eligible for SNAP and enroll in the program. As SNAP participants spend this increased Federal assistance, income is generated for those involved in producing, transporting, and marketing the food and other goods purchased by SNAP recipients. The impact of this increased spending by SNAP households 'multiplies' throughout the economy as the businesses supplying the food and other goods—and their employees—have additional funds to make purchases of their own. This multiplier effect on the economy may extend well beyond the initial money provided to SNAP participants." [USDA Economic Research Service, [7/18/19](#)]

Marques Opposed Legislation That Protected Alabamians With Preexisting Conditions And Supported The Expiration Of Health Care Tax Credits That Was Projected To Drive Up Health Care Costs For More Than 72,000 Alabamians In AL-02

2026: Marques Blamed The Rising Health Care Costs On The Affordable Care Act, Saying It Started The “Crisis With The Health Care System”

2026: Marques Said, “This Crisis With The Health Care System Started When Obamacare Took Place In The 2010s. And Since Then, People Are Unable To Pay For Their Health Insurance”

VIDEO: 2026: Marques Said, “But Let Us Not Forget That All Of This Crisis With The Health Care System Started When Obamacare Took Place In The 2010s And Since Then, People Are Unable To Pay For Their Health Insurance.” MARQUES: “You know, we're losing rural hospitals at an alarming rate across the state, and it is putting people in jeopardy of not being able to have the health care in their in their communities. I applaud President Trump trying to address this and the fact that cutting the pharmaceutical cost, etc. But you know there is a lot of fraud and waste and abuse that that occurs. But let us not forget that all of this crisis with the health care system started when Obamacare took place in the 2010s and since then, people are unable to pay for their health insurance, and because it continues to go up, and that is where cutting costs and making sure that people have more money in their pocket, and continue cutting taxes to allow people to be able to afford their insurance, and and you know this is a this is a national crisis. This is a state crisis. This is definitely a rural crisis. And so, by providing more money and for people, I think that is the answer, and we're going to have to bring it down through some kind of PBM and tort reform. Thank you.” [WSFA 12 News via YouTube, 33:24, [4/16/26](#)] (VIDEO)

- **American Medical Association: Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) Acted As “Middlemen” In The Prescription Drug Supply Chain, Managing Prescription Drug Plan Benefits For Insurers And/Or Employers.** “Pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) manage prescription drug plan (PDP) benefits for insurers and/or employers. PBMs are ‘middlemen’ in the prescription drug supply chain. PBMs were established in the 1960s to help insurers control prescription drug spending and manage benefits. Consolidation and vertical integration in the PBM market have raised concerns about the potential for reduced competition and higher prescription drug prices.” [American Medical Association, [2/4/26](#)]

2026: Marques Made Vague Suggestions About His Plans To Lower Health Care Costs, Saying He Would Cut Taxes And Implement “Some Kind Of PBM And Tort Reform”

VIDEO: 2026: Marques Was Vague About His Plan To Make Health Care More Affordable Saying, “That Is Where Cutting Costs And Making Sure That People Have More Money In Their Pocket, And Continue Cutting Taxes To Allow People To Be Able To Afford Their Insurance.” MARQUES: “You know, we're losing rural hospitals at an alarming rate across the state, and it is putting people in jeopardy of not being able to have the health care in their in their communities. I applaud President Trump trying to address this and the fact that cutting the pharmaceutical cost, etc. But you know there is a lot of fraud and waste and abuse that that occurs. But let us not forget that all of this crisis with the health care system started when Obamacare took place in the 2010s and since then, people are unable to pay for their health insurance, and because it continues to go up, and that is where cutting costs and making sure that people have more money in their pocket, and continue cutting taxes to allow people to be able to afford their insurance, and and you know this is a this is a national crisis. This is a state crisis. This is definitely a rural crisis. And so, by providing more money and for people, I think that is the answer, and we're going to have to bring it down through some kind of PBM and tort reform. Thank you.” [WSFA 12 News via YouTube, 33:24, [4/16/26](#)] (VIDEO)

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applaud President Trump trying to address this and the fact that cutting the pharmaceutical cost, etc. But you know there is a lot of fraud and waste and abuse that that occurs. But let us not forget that all of this crisis with the health care system started when Obamacare took place in the 2010s and since then, people are unable to pay for their health insurance, and because it continues to go up, and that is where cutting costs and making sure that people have more money in their pocket, and continue cutting taxes to allow people to be able to afford their insurance, and and you know this is a this is a national crisis. This is a state crisis. This is definitely a rural crisis. And so, by providing more money and for people, I think that is the answer, and we're going to have to bring it down through some kind of PBM and tort reform. Thank you.” [WSFA 12 News via YouTube, 33:24, [4/16/26](#)] (VIDEO)

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The Affordable Care Act Guaranteed Protections For People With Preexisting Conditions, And Provided Nearly 500,000 Alabamians With Coverage Through The Marketplace

2025: Nearly 500,000 Alabamians Got Coverage From ACA Marketplace Plans

2025: Nearly 500,000 Alabamians Got Coverage From ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

Number Of Alabama Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
State	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
Alabama	477,838

[KFF, [4/2/25](#)]

Before The ACA, Health Insurance Companies Could Legally Deny Coverage To People With Preexisting Conditions, Including High Blood Pressure, Allergies, And Pregnancy

Before The ACA, Health Insurance Companies Could Legally Deny Coverage To People With Preexisting Conditions, Including High Blood Pressure, Allergies, And Pregnancy. “A ‘preexisting condition’ refers to any health issue someone has before they sign up for a health insurance policy — from high blood pressure to pregnancy to allergies. Before the Affordable Care Act, it was perfectly legal for health insurers to deny coverage to people with such conditions.” [NPR, [10/27/20](#)]

2018: KFF: Nearly 6.1 Million Non-Elderly Adults In Alabama Had Declinable Preexisting Conditions Under Pre-ACA Practices

2018: KFF: Nearly 6.1 Million Non-Elderly Adults In Alabama Had Declinable Preexisting Conditions Under Pre-Aca Practices. [KFF, [10/4/19](#)]

2018: Est. Number and Percent of Non-Elderly People with Declinable Preexisting Conditions Under Pre-ACA Practices, Alabama		
State	Percent of Non-Elderly Population	Number of Non-Elderly Adults
Alabama	33%	957,000

[KFF, [10/4/19](#)]

2025: Marques Praised The Federal Spending Plan Which Let ACA Tax Credits Expire

2025: Marques Praised The One Big Beautiful Bill For Providing “Tax Relief To Americans.” “State Rep. Rhett Marques of Enterprise has landed an endorsement from his colleagues in the race for Congress in Alabama's 1st district. Alabama House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter and 31 other Republican representatives announced their support for Marques. ‘I am honored to have the support of so many of the men and women that I have worked with in the legislature,’ Marques said in a press release. ‘While President Trump was providing tax relief to Americans with the One Big Beautiful Bill, we were working on the state level in the Alabama legislature slashing the state tax on groceries, eliminating the state tax on diapers and baby supplies that are critical for young families, and implementing a substantial tax relief package providing relief for our seniors.’” [AL.com, [9/9/25](#)]

- **The One Big Beautiful Bill Did Not Extend Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For ACA Marketplace Plans.** “The OBBBA did not extend enhanced premium tax credits for ACA marketplace plans. As a result, when open enrollment begins on November 1, 2025, 20 million marketplace enrollees will see their premium costs spike.” [Center for American Progress, [7/29/25](#)]

The Expiration Of ACA Tax Credits Were Projected To Drive Up Annual Premiums From \$178 To \$684 For ACA Marketplace Plans In Alabama, Which Covered More Than 72,000 People In AL-02

2025: More Than 72,000 Individuals In AL-02 Got Coverage Through ACA Marketplace Plans

2025: More Than 72,000 Individuals In AL- 02 Got Coverage Through ACA Marketplace Plans. [KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

Number Of AL-02 Residents Enrolled In ACA Marketplace Plans In 2025	
Congressional District	ACA Marketplace Enrollees
AL-02	72,161

[KFF, [10/3/25](#)]

NOTE: District data refers to lines before redistricting in 2026.

2025: Insurance Companies Raised Their Rates As They Anticipated The End Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits

2025: KFF Health System Tracker: Insurers That Participated In The ACA Marketplaces Raised Premiums On Average By 20% In 2026. “For 2026, across 312 insurers participating in the ACA Marketplaces from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, this analysis shows a median proposed premium increase of 18%, which is about 11 percentage points higher than last year. This is the largest rate change insurers have requested since 2018, the last time that policy uncertainty contributed to sharp premium increases. On average, ACA Marketplace insurers are raising premiums by about 20% in 2026. Based on a more detailed analysis of available documents from insurers in 19 states and the District of Columbia, like in prior years, growth in health care prices stood out as a key factor driving costs in 2026. Insurers cite increasing cost and utilization of high-priced drugs as well as general market factors, such as increasing labor costs and inflation, as contributing to premium increases.” [KFF Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

- **2025: The Majority Of Insurers Took Into Account The Potential Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits For Their Rate Increases.** “In addition to rising healthcare costs, the majority of insurers are also taking into account the potential expiration of enhanced premium tax credits in their premium rate increases for the next year. The expiration of enhanced tax credits will lead to out-of-pocket premiums for ACA marketplace enrollees increasing by an average of more than 75%, with insurers expecting healthier enrollees to drop coverage. That, in turn, increases underlying premiums. Other federal policy changes, like the implementation of tariffs and the ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule were also discussed, though to a lesser extent.” [KFF Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

- 2025: The Majority Of Insurers Assumed Enhanced Tax Credits Would Expire At The End Of 2025, Which Caused Them To Raise Their Rates By An Average Of 4%.** “Uncertainty over federal policy changes has forced insurers to make some assumptions when developing their rates for 2026. Commonly mentioned by insurers is the impact of the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits, which are scheduled to sunset at the end of 2025, unless extended by Congress. The majority of insurers have assumed that enhanced tax credits will expire at the end of this year, driving rates an average of 4 percentage points higher than they otherwise would be. These increased rates are due to insurers anticipating that some healthier members will leave the ACA Marketplaces when their subsidies decrease, creating an enrollee base that is less healthy and more expensive on average.” [KFF Health System Tracker, [8/6/25](#)]

2025: Annual Premiums For ACA Marketplace Plans In Alabama Were Projected To Increase From \$178 To \$684 Due To The Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits

2025: Annual Premiums For ACA Marketplace Plans In Alabama Were Projected To Increase From \$178 To \$684 Due To The Expiration Of Enhanced Premium Tax Credits. [Center for American Progress, [9/29/25](#)]

2025: Premium Costs For ACA Marketplace Enrollees If Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expired				
State	Avg. Annual Net Premium With Enhanced Tax Credit	Avg. Annual Net Premium Without Enhanced Tax Credit	Cost Increase (\$)	Cost Increase (%)
Alabama	\$178	\$684	+\$506	284%

[Center for American Progress, [9/29/25](#)]

2025: A 60-Year-Old Couple Making \$85,000 In AL-02 Would See A 346% Increase In Their Average Out-Of-Pocket Monthly Premium Payments If The ACA Tax Credits Expired

2025: A 60-Year-Old Couple Making \$85,000 In AL-02 Would See A 346% Increase In Their Average Out-Of-Pocket Monthly Premium Payments If The ACA Tax Credits Expired. [KFF, [10/9/25](#)]

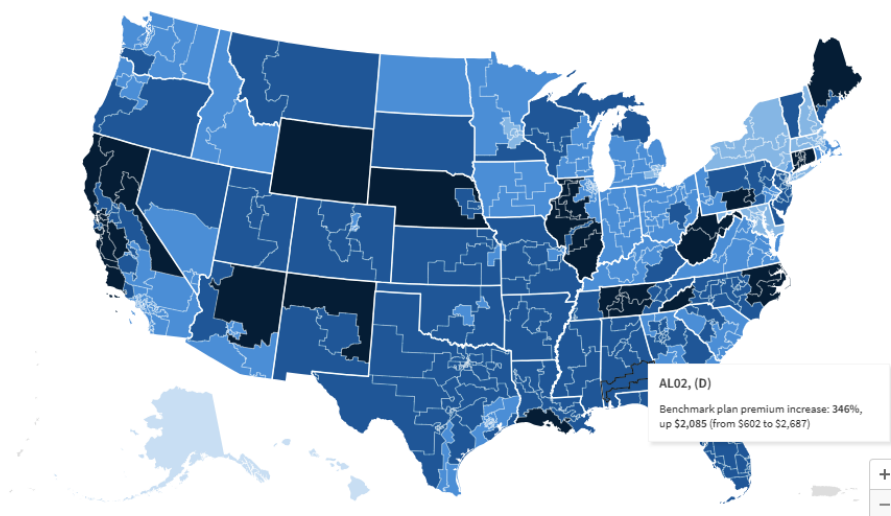
Figure 1

Premium Payments for Subsidized Enrollees Will Increase Nationwide if Enhanced ACA Subsidies Expire

Percent Increase in Average Monthly Premium Payments for Benchmark Silver Plan Without Enhanced Subsidies, 60-Year Old Couple Making \$85,000, 2026

40-Year-Old, \$32,000 **60-Year Old Couple, \$85,000**

< 100% 100%–200% 200%–300% **300%–400%** ≥ 400%



[KFF, [10/9/25](#)]

NOTE: District data refers to lines before redistricting in 2026.

Multiple Outlets Reported 130,000 Alabamians Were Expected To Lose Their Health Insurance Without ACA Tax Credits

AL.com Headline: “130,000 Alabamians Expected To Lose Health Insurance As Subsidies Expire, Prices Spike.” [AL.com, [1/2/26](#)]

Alabama Reflector Headline: “About 130,000 Alabamians At Risk Of Losing Health Care Without ACA Tax Credits.” [Alabama Reflector, [12/16/25](#)]

- **December 2025: Alabama Reflector: “About 130,000 Alabamians Could Lose Health Care Coverage Or Pay Significantly Higher Premiums At The Start Of 2026 After Congress Failed To Pass An Extension On Tax Credits For Affordable Care Act (ACA) Plans Last Week.”** “About 130,000 Alabamians could lose health care coverage or pay significantly higher premiums at the start of 2026 after Congress failed to pass an extension on tax credits for Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans last week. Theresa Lau, senior policy counsel for the Southern Policy Law Center (SPLC), said in an interview Monday that about 446,000 Alabamians, nearly all of the state’s ACA enrollees, qualify for an enhanced premium tax credit. The tax credits do not have an income cap, but Lau said that enrollees that fall on the lower end benefit the most from the tax credits.” [Alabama Reflector, [12/16/25](#)]

Southern Poverty Law Center’s Policy Director Said Rural Health Care Clinics Would Cut Services And “Struggle To Stay Afloat Without Any Additional Assistance” As A Result Of ACA Tax Credits Expiring

Southern Poverty Law Center’s Policy Director On ACA Tax Credits Expiring: “Unfortunately, What We’re Likely Going To See Is A Rollback In Services Provided By Rural Health Care Clinics, To The Point That Some Of Them Are Likely Going To Struggle To Stay Afloat Without Any Additional Assistance.”

“With the start of the new year comes a major change for the Alabamians who rely on the Affordable Care Act to cut the costs of health insurance. Enhanced federal tax credits that helped lower the cost of health insurance premiums under the ACA have expired. Jerome Dees is the Alabama policy director for the Southern Poverty Law Center. He said about 450,000 Alabamians currently depend on those subsidies. Of that group, he said roughly 130,000 people may lose coverage altogether because they can no longer afford the higher premiums. Dees said the expiration could cause insurance costs to rise by hundreds to thousands of dollars per year for some families. ‘As a result, many people will have to make the difficult decision to forgo health insurance entirely,’ Dees said. He said the expiration affects services ranging from routine doctor visits to emergency transportation. Dees also warned that rural health care providers could be hit especially hard. ‘Unfortunately, what we’re likely going to see is a rollback in services provided by rural health care clinics, to the point that some of them are likely going to struggle to stay afloat without any additional assistance,’ Dees said. The changes come as Congress faces the possibility of another government shutdown. ‘This is a real opportunity for folks to use their voice and reach out and apply pressure on their legislators and say that their health should not be up for debate,’ he said. For those seeking coverage under the Affordable Care Act, open enrollment for 2026 plans runs through Jan. 15.” [WHNT News 19, [1/2/26](#)]

Marques Repeatedly Voted To Make Life More Expensive As An Alabama State Representative And Enterprise City Councilmember, Voting To Raise Gas Taxes, Add Fees, And Increase The Sales Tax For Alabamians

In The Alabama House Of Representatives, Marques Voted For Higher Gas Taxes, Increased Vehicle Fees, And A New Houston County Probate Transaction Fee

Marques Was Elected To The Alabama House Of Representatives In 2018 And Reelected In 2022

2022: Marques Was Reelected To The Alabama House Of Representatives District 91, With A Term Ending

In 2026. “Marques is a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, representing District 91. He assumed office on Nov. 7, 2018. He was re-elected in 2022 and his current term ends on Nov. 4, 2026. Marques was born and raised in Spanish Fort. He graduated from Fairhope High School in 1990 and subsequently earned his degree in marketing from the University of Alabama in 1994. In his career, Marques has served as the owner and manager of Goodson Tire and Auto and was an Enterprise City Councilman prior to his election to the state House of Representatives.” [Enterprise Ledger, [6/6/25](#)]

2018: Marques Assumed Office In The Alabama House Of Representatives District 91. “Marques is a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, representing District 91. He assumed office on Nov. 7, 2018. He was re-elected in 2022 and his current term ends on Nov. 4, 2026. Marques was born and raised in Spanish Fort. He graduated from Fairhope High School in 1990 and subsequently earned his degree in marketing from the University of Alabama in 1994. In his career, Marques has served as the owner and manager of Goodson Tire and Auto and was an Enterprise City Councilman prior to his election to the state House of Representatives.” [Enterprise Ledger, [6/6/25](#)]

2024-2025: Marques Voted To Create New Motor Vehicle Registration Fees And Raise License Tag Fees In Butler, Elmore, And Coffee Counties

May 2025: Marques Voted To Enact An Additional Annual Fee Of \$5.25 On Motor Vehicle Registrations In Butler County

May 2025: Marques Voted For H.B. 550, “Butler County, Levy Of Additional Motor Vehicle License And Registration Fee Authorized.” In April 2025, Marques voted for H.B. 550, “Butler County, levy of additional motor vehicle license and registration fee authorized.” The motion passed by a vote of 55-0-48. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 550](#), Roll Call 827, [4/15/25](#)]

- **H.B. 550 Authorized The Butler County Commission To Levy An Additional Annual Fee Of \$5.25 On Motor Vehicle License Registrations Within The County.** “Section 1. (a)(1) The Butler County Commission, prior to December 1, 2025, may levy and provide for the collection of an annual additional motor vehicle license and registration issuance fee in the amount of up to five dollars twenty-five cents (\$5.25) on each new registration, transfer, or renewal on any vehicle in the county with the motor vehicle license and registration year commencing on January 1, 2026. (2) The fee authorized by this section may only be for one continuing annual fee of up to five dollars twenty-five cents (\$5.25). (3) The county's license issuing official shall collect the issuance fee on each new registration, transfer, or renewal on a vehicle in the county.” [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 550, [4/9/25](#)]
- **Proceeds From H.B. 550 Would Be Distributed Evenly Amongst The Sheriff, Revenue Commissioner, And Judge Of Probate.** “Section 1. (a)(1) The Butler County Commission, prior to December 1, 2025, may levy and provide for the collection of an annual additional motor vehicle license and registration issuance fee in the amount of up to five dollars twenty-five cents (\$5.25) on each new registration, transfer, or renewal on any vehicle in the county with the motor vehicle license and registration year commencing on January 1, 2026. [...] (b) The license issuing official, on a monthly basis, shall distribute the proceeds from this section as follows: (1) One-third to the sheriff. (2) One-third to the revenue commissioner. (3) One-third to the judge of probate.” [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 550, [4/9/25](#)]

NOTE: Marques later abstained from voting on H.B. 550 during roll call 828 on 4/15/25.

March 2025: Marques Voted To Enact A \$25 Fee On Each Motor Vehicle Registration, Transfer, Or Renewal In Elmore County

March 2025: Marques Voted For H.B. 371, “Elmore County, To Create Motor Vehicle And Watercraft Registration Fees And Provide For Distribution Of Funds.” In March 2025, Marques voted for: “Elmore County, to create motor vehicle and watercraft registration fees and provide for distribution of funds.” The motion failed by a vote of 50-0-51. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 371](#), Roll Call 402, [3/18/25](#)]

- **H.B. 371 Authorized The Revenue Commissioner Of Elmore County To Charge A \$25 Fee On Each Motor Vehicle Registration, Transfer, Or Renewal.** “Relating to Elmore County; to levy an annual motor vehicle registration fee on each motor vehicle registered in Elmore County; and to provide for the distribution of the proceeds of the fee. [...] (b)(1) The Revenue Commissioner of Elmore County shall charge and collect a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee on each motor vehicle registration, transfer, or renewal. (2) The fee established by this subsection shall not apply to trailers. (c)The fee provided in subsection (b) shall be in addition to all other fees, taxes, and other charges provided by law.” [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 371, [4/1/25](#)]
- **Proceeds From H.B. 371 Would Be Distributed To The Enhance Elmore Fund For Infrastructure And Economic Development.** “(e) The Revenue Commissioner shall collect the fees in the same manner and at the same time as other motor vehicle registration fees. (f)(1) All proceeds from the collection of the fees shall be deposited into the Enhance Elmore Fund. (2) The county commission shall appropriate the proceeds of these fees as follows: a. Ninety-five percent for infrastructure. b. Five percent for economic development.” [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 371, [4/1/25](#)]

NOTE: Marques later abstained from voting on H.B. 371 during roll call 403 and 404 on 3/18/25.

April 2024: Marques Sponsored And Voted For A Bill To Increase Motor Vehicle License Tag Fees By \$8 In Coffee County

April 2024: Marques Sponsored H.B. 416, “Coffee County, Motor Vehicle License Tags, Additional \$8 Fee, Distributed To Sheriff And District Attorney.” In April 2024, Marques sponsored “Coffee County, motor vehicle license tags, additional \$8 fee, distributed to sheriff and district attorney.” [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 416](#), [4/4/24](#)]

April 2024: Marques Voted For H.B. 416, “Coffee County, Motor Vehicle License Tags, Additional \$8 Fee, Distributed To Sheriff And District Attorney.” In April 2024, Marques voted for: “Coffee County, motor vehicle license tags, additional \$8 fee, distributed to sheriff and district attorney.” The motion passed by a vote of 15-0-83. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 416](#), Roll Call 510, [4/11/24](#)]

- **2024: H.B. 416 Increased Motor Vehicle License Tag Fees In Coffee County By \$8.** “An \$8 tag fee increase in Coffee County to benefit law enforcement is being considered by the Alabama legislature and the Coffee County Commission Monday unanimously agreed to support that bill. House Bill 416, introduced by State Rep. Rhett Marques, will add \$8 to each motor vehicle license tag issued in Coffee County, with the funds generated split between the Coffee County Sheriff's Department and the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's office. [...] Under the bill, the fee will be ‘on each motor vehicle license and registration, transfer, or renewal of any vehicle in the county; and to provide for distribution of the proceeds from the fees to the general fund to be used by the sheriff's office and the office of the district attorney. The fee shall be in addition to all other fees, taxes, and other charges provided by law.’ According to the bill, \$3 of the tag fee increased will be distributed to the district attorney's office and \$5 to the sheriff's office. If passed by the legislature, the fee increase becomes effective Oct. 1 of this year. The Coffee County Commission meets at 9 a.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month in the community room in the government complex in New Brockton. The meetings are open to the public.” [Dothan Eagle, [4/9/24](#)]
- **Under H.B. 416, \$3 Of The Motor Vehicle License Tag Fee Would Be Distributed To The District Attorney’s Office And \$5 Would Be Distributed To The Sheriff’s Office.** “An \$8 tag fee increase in Coffee County to benefit law enforcement is being considered by the Alabama legislature and the Coffee County Commission Monday unanimously agreed to support that bill. House Bill 416, introduced by State Rep. Rhett Marques, will add \$8 to each motor vehicle license tag issued in Coffee County, with the funds generated split between the Coffee County Sheriff's Department and the 12th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's office. [...] Under the bill, the fee will be ‘on each motor vehicle license and registration, transfer, or renewal of any vehicle in the county; and to provide for distribution of the proceeds from the fees to the general fund to be

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2019: Marques Voted For A 10 Cent Gas Tax Increase, And Said, "You Know, It Wasn't Easy. Nobody Likes To Raise Taxes"

March 2019: Marques Voted To Increase Alabama's Gas And Diesel Tax By A Total 10 Cents Per Gallon Over Three Years

March 2019: Marques Voted For H.B. 2, "Motor Vehicles And Motor Fuels, Rebuild Alabama Act, Additional Tax On Gasoline And Diesel Fuel Of Ten Cents In Increments, Additional Licensing Tax On Electric And Hybrid Electric Automobiles, Distribution Of Proceeds." In March 2019, Marques voted for H.B. 2, "Motor vehicles and motor fuels, rebuild Alabama act, additional tax on gasoline and diesel fuel of ten cents in increments, additional licensing tax on electric and hybrid electric automobiles, distribution of proceeds." The motion passed by a vote of 83-20-0. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 2](#), Roll Call 18, [3/8/19](#)]

- **H.B. 2 Increased Alabama's Gas And Diesel Tax By A Total 10 Cents Per Gallon Over Three Years.** "Section 6. (a) Effective for tax periods beginning after August 31, 2019, an additional excise tax of six cents (\$0.06) is imposed on each net gallon of gasoline and diesel fuel. (b) Effective October 1, 2020, this additional excise tax is increased by two cents (\$0.02) to eight cents (\$0.08) on each net gallon of gasoline and diesel fuel. (c) Effective October 1, 2021, this additional excise tax is increased by two cents (\$0.02) to ten cents (\$0.10) on each net gallon of gasoline and diesel fuel." [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 2, [3/6/19](#)]
- **2019: Alabama's State Gas Tax Was 18 Cents Per Gallon And 19 Cents Per Gallon For Diesel.** "Alabama's infrastructure is in need of repair. To cover the cost, Gov. Kay Ivey has proposed a 10-cent-a-gallon gas tax. Here's what you need to know: First, what is the current state tax on gasoline? Alabama's current state gas tax is 18 cents per gallon. It increases to 19 cents per gallon for diesel fuel. What other gas taxes do we currently pay? There's a federal excise tax of 18.4 cents per gallon of gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon on diesel. Cities and counties in Alabama can also levy a gas tax, ranging from the most common – 1 cent – up to 6 cents in places like Flomaton and Chickasaw." [AL.com, [2/28/19](#)]
- **2019: Alabama's 18 Cents Per Gallon Gas Tax Had Not Changed Since 1992.** "When was the last time Alabama's gas tax was increased? Alabama's 18 cents-per-gallon tax hasn't changed since 1992." [AL.com, [2/28/19](#)]
- **2019: Governor Ivey Said Proceeds From The 10 Cent Gas Tax Increase Would Be "Used For Transportation Infrastructure Improvement, Preservation And Maintenance Projects."** "How will the money be spent? According to Ivey, revenue from the tax would be 'used for transportation infrastructure improvement, preservation and maintenance projects.' In making her case for the tax increase, Ivey cited a report by the University of Alabama's Alabama Transportation Institute and Alabama Transportation Policy Research Center that found cars and trucks are putting approximately 69 billion miles on Alabama's roadways annually, a 17 percent increase over the past 15 years. 'With more travelers on the road, areas of congestion and public safety are a major concern. One-third of all traffic fatalities are estimated to be a direct result of a deficient roadway feature, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers,' the governor's office said in a press release." [AL.com, [2/28/19](#)]

AL.com: Marques Voted For The Rebuild Alabama Act, Which Raised The State's Gas Tax To Pay For Road And Bridge Construction And Maintenance. "State Rep. Rhett Marques of Enterprise has talked about his legislative votes for \$1.5 billion in tax cuts during his campaign for the Republican nomination in Alabama's 2nd congressional district. Hampton Harris of Montgomery, one of five other Republicans running in the August 11

special primary, wants to spotlight another vote by Marques – for the Rebuild Alabama Act in 2019. [...] The ad notes that the Rebuild Alabama Act increased the state gasoline tax by 10 cents a gallon and included a provision that automatically adds 1 cent every two years based on an index of highway construction costs. That has happened twice, with the total increase now at 12 cents a gallon. [...] Ivey and legislative leaders noted that it was Alabama's first gas tax increase since 1992, and that money from the increase was pledged to road and bridge construction and maintenance, with a portion set aside for improvements in Mobile Bay." [AL.com, [7/27/26](#)]

AL.com: "The Rebuild Alabama Act Increased The State Gasoline Tax By 10 Cents A Gallon And Included A Provision That Automatically Adds 1 Cent Every Two Years Based On An Index Of Highway Construction Costs." "State Rep. Rhett Marques of Enterprise has talked about his legislative votes for \$1.5 billion in tax cuts during his campaign for the Republican nomination in Alabama's 2nd congressional district. Hampton Harris of Montgomery, one of five other Republicans running in the August 11 special primary, wants to spotlight another vote by Marques – for the Rebuild Alabama Act in 2019. That bill, championed by Gov. Kay Ivey and legislative leaders, raised Alabama's state tax on gasoline and diesel fuel to pay for road construction. 'Every time you fill up, Rhett Marques costs you,' the headline on a campaign mailer by Harris reads. The ad notes that the Rebuild Alabama Act increased the state gasoline tax by 10 cents a gallon and included a provision that automatically adds 1 cent every two years based on an index of highway construction costs. That has happened twice, with the total increase now at 12 cents a gallon. 'He raised your gas tax. He voted for the machine that keeps raising it. Now he's looking for a promotion,' the Harris ad says." [AL.com, [7/27/26](#)]

2026: The Total Gas Tax Increase From The Rebuild Alabama Act Was 12 Cents A Gallon. "State Rep. Rhett Marques of Enterprise has talked about his legislative votes for \$1.5 billion in tax cuts during his campaign for the Republican nomination in Alabama's 2nd congressional district. Hampton Harris of Montgomery, one of five other Republicans running in the August 11 special primary, wants to spotlight another vote by Marques – for the Rebuild Alabama Act in 2019. That bill, championed by Gov. Kay Ivey and legislative leaders, raised Alabama's state tax on gasoline and diesel fuel to pay for road construction. 'Every time you fill up, Rhett Marques costs you,' the headline on a campaign mailer by Harris reads. The ad notes that the Rebuild Alabama Act increased the state gasoline tax by 10 cents a gallon and included a provision that automatically adds 1 cent every two years based on an index of highway construction costs. That has happened twice, with the total increase now at 12 cents a gallon. 'He raised your gas tax. He voted for the machine that keeps raising it. Now he's looking for a promotion,' the Harris ad says." [AL.com, [7/27/26](#)]

2021: Marques Explained His Vote For A Gas Tax Increase, Saying "You Know, It Wasn't Easy. Nobody Likes To Raise Taxes, But You Know, When You Have A Deteriorating Infrastructure, As We Did [...] We Had To Address Them Somehow"

VIDEO: 2021: Marques Said Of Voting To Increase The Gas Tax, "You Know, It Wasn't Easy. Nobody Likes To Raise Taxes, But You Know, When You Have A Deteriorating Infrastructure, As We Did, And We Have The Needs Across The State And The Wiregrass. We Had To Address Them Somehow." HOST: "Let me ask you, the first thing you were hit with was that road raising the gas tax for the road program, but if I'm not mistaken, everybody in the Wiregrass voted for that." MARQUES: "That is correct, including Representative Dexter Grimsley. [...] You know, it wasn't easy. Nobody likes to raise taxes, but you know, when you have a deteriorating infrastructure, as we did, and we have the needs across the state and the Wiregrass. We had to address them somehow, and we could not continuously kick the can down the road. We had not had an increase in our revenues on the on the gas side in 27 years, and you know we're seeing benefits with that gas tax, with roads coming in. With last night, during the state of the state, Governor Ivey announced a new portion of Geneva County that's going to be four lane, and, and that's going to help the Wiregrass also, but Coffee County, we've gotten a number of projects, and from." HOST: "From state funding." MARQUES: "From state funding, because of that, and, and so we're benefiting, and that, so that money is not being wasted. We have put in a lot of provisions to make sure that we had control of that money, and they was going in the right direction and could not be misused." [Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers via YouTube, 5:49, [2/3/21](#)] (VIDEO)

- **2026: Hampton Harris, One Of The Other Republican Candidates Running In AL-02, Criticized Marques For His 2019 Gas Tax Hike Vote, Sending Mailers Saying, "Every Time You Fill Up, Rhett**

Marques Costs You.” “State Rep. Rhett Marques of Enterprise has talked about his legislative votes for \$1.5 billion in tax cuts during his campaign for the Republican nomination in Alabama’s 2nd congressional district. Hampton Harris of Montgomery, one of five other Republicans running in the August 11 special primary, wants to spotlight another vote by Marques – for the Rebuild Alabama Act in 2019. That bill, championed by Gov. Kay Ivey and legislative leaders, raised Alabama’s state tax on gasoline and diesel fuel to pay for road construction. ‘Every time you fill up, Rhett Marques costs you,’ the headline on a campaign mailer by Harris reads. The ad notes that the Rebuild Alabama Act increased the state gasoline tax by 10 cents a gallon and included a provision that automatically adds 1 cent every two years based on an index of highway construction costs. That has happened twice, with the total increase now at 12 cents a gallon. ‘He raised your gas tax. He voted for the machine that keeps raising it. Now he’s looking for a promotion,’ the Harris ad says.” [AL.com, [7/27/26](#)]

2019: Marques Voted To Enact A \$5 Fee For All Transactions In Houston County Involving The Probate Court, Recording, Licenses, And Tags

April 2019: Marques Voted For H.B. 331, “Houston County, County Commission, Authorized To Levy Probate Transaction Fee, Distribution.” In April 2019, Marques voted for H.B. 331, “Houston county, county commission, authorized to levy probate transaction fee, distribution.” The motion failed by a vote of 22-0-75. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 331](#), [4/9/19](#)]

- **H.B. 331 Authorized The Houston County Probate Judge To Collect A Probate Transaction Fee Of \$5 On Transactions That Involved The Probate Court, Recording, Licenses, Or Tags.** “Section 1. (a)(1) The Judge of Probate of Houston County shall collect a probate transaction fee in the amount of five dollars (\$5) for each probate transaction that involves probate court, recording, licenses, or tags.” [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 331, [4/3/19](#)]
- **Proceeds From H.B. 331 Would Be Distributed To The Probate Judge Office, Sheriff’s Office, And County General Fund.** “(b) The probate transaction fees collected shall be distributed as follows: (1) One dollar (\$1) of each five dollar (\$5) fee shall be paid into a special fund to be used for the operation of the office of the judge of probate. (2) One dollar (\$1) of each five dollar (\$5) fee shall be paid into a special fund to be used for the operation of the office of the sheriff. (3) The remainder of the proceeds from the fees shall be deposited into the county general fund.” [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 331, [4/3/19](#)]

As An Enterprise City Councilmember, Marques Voted To Increase The City’s Sales Tax From 8.5% To 9%
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2012-2016: Marques Served On The Enterprise City Council And Served As City Council President

2012: Marques Was Elected To The Enterprise City Council. “District 5 City Councilman Rhett Marques has taken over leadership of the Enterprise City Council through the council’s district rotation process. As president, Marques will open, close and lead council meetings. Council presidents are rotated on a nine-month term by district. Council president in November will be District 1 Councilman Bill Cooper. ‘It’s my first time being president,’ said Marques, who was elected to the council in 2012. ‘The rotation process is a good way to do it, I think.’ Marques, who owns and manages Goodson Tire & Auto, moved to Enterprise in 2000. He grew up in Spanish Fort and attended the University of Alabama, graduating with a degree in marketing in 1994. It was at UA that he met his wife of 21 years, Christina. The Marques’ have two children – one in 11th grade and another in 8th grade. Marques said he enjoys giving back to his adopted city. ‘It is very rewarding to do what you can for the community,’ he said. ‘There are so many positive things going on.’” [Enterprise Ledger, [1/22/16](#)]

- **2016: Marques Was Named Enterprise City Council President.** “District 5 City Councilman Rhett Marques has taken over leadership of the Enterprise City Council through the council’s district rotation process. As president, Marques will open, close and lead council meetings. Council presidents are rotated on a nine-month term by district. Council president in November will be District 1 Councilman Bill Cooper. ‘It’s my first time

being president,’ said Marques, who was elected to the council in 2012. ‘The rotation process is a good way to do it, I think.’ Marques, who owns and manages Goodson Tire & Auto, moved to Enterprise in 2000. He grew up in Spanish Fort and attended the University of Alabama, graduating with a degree in marketing in 1994. It was at UA that he met his wife of 21 years, Christina. The Marques’ have two children – one in 11th grade and another in 8th grade. Marques said he enjoys giving back to his adopted city. ‘It is very rewarding to do what you can for the community,’ he said. ‘There are so many positive things going on.’” [Enterprise Ledger, [1/22/16](#)]

- **Under Alabama Code 11-43-40, City Councilmembers Were Elected To Four-Year Terms.** “Section 11-43-40 Composition of City Councils; Voting by President of Council. (a) Except as provided in Section 11-43-2 as it relates to the legislative functions of the mayor in cities and towns having a population of 12,000 or more but less than 25,000 inhabitants according to the most recent or any subsequent federal decennial census, in cities having a population of 12,000 or more, the following officers shall be elected at each general municipal election, who shall compose the city council for the cities and who shall hold office for four years and until their successors are elected and qualified, and who shall exercise the legislative functions of city government and any other powers and duties which are or may be vested by law in the city council or its members.” [Alabama Code § 11-43-40, accessed [7/16/26](#)]

2014: Marques Voted To Increase Enterprise’s City Sales Tax From 8.5% To 9%

2014: As An Enterprise City Councilmember, Marques Voted For A Half-Cent Sales Tax Increase For Enterprise, Increasing The City’s Sales Tax From 8.5% To 9%. “The half-cent sales tax increase for the City of Enterprise was unanimously approved Tuesday night and actually was met with little resistance from the public as only two residents chose to address the city council before the matter went to a vote. The increase moves Enterprise from 8.5 percent to 9 percent and will go into effect on Sept. 1. Enterprise’s last change in sales tax was six years ago when the city moved from 8 to 8.5. The tax is actually a derivative of three taxes - 4.0 from the state, 4.0 from the city and 1.0 from the county. The increase only matches that of neighboring Dothan and Troy and is still below Montgomery’s 10.0 percent. The increase was necessary, said city officials, to help the Enterprise City Schools meet it \$26.6 million in capital plans. The school will pay \$10 million and the city will forgive a 12-year annual payment of \$550,000 to the city as agreed upon from a previous bond issue. The sales tax will help raise the \$16.5 million still needed to meet the capital plans. [...] Councilman Al Miller said that the council had indeed performed its due diligence, noting the multiple occasions the public had to voice their concerns previously at city council and school board meetings as well as the public hearing. ‘We wouldn’t be wanting a half-cent increase if it wasn’t necessary,’ Miller said. ‘Nobody wants it, but it’s something we’ve got to do. ‘This administration supports the children of the schools, it supports Fort Rucker. This is not unwarranted.’ Miller made the motion to adopt the sales tax increase. Councilman Bill Cooper made a second to the motion. Rhett Marques, Tommy Johnson, Jr., and Council President Kirk Donaldson joined them in making the vote unanimous.” [Enterprise Ledger, [7/17/14](#)]

- **2014: Enterprise Ledger: “The Half-Cent Sales Tax Increase For The City Of Enterprise Was Unanimously Approved Tuesday Night And Actually Was Met With Little Resistance From The Public As Only Two Residents Chose To Address The City Council Before The Matter Went To A Vote.”** “The half-cent sales tax increase for the City of Enterprise was unanimously approved Tuesday night and actually was met with little resistance from the public as only two residents chose to address the city council before the matter went to a vote. The increase moves Enterprise from 8.5 percent to 9 percent and will go into effect on Sept. 1. Enterprise’s last change in sales tax was six years ago when the city moved from 8 to 8.5. The tax is actually a derivative of three taxes - 4.0 from the state, 4.0 from the city and 1.0 from the county. The increase only matches that of neighboring Dothan and Troy and is still below Montgomery’s 10.0 percent. The increase was necessary, said city officials, to help the Enterprise City Schools meet it \$26.6 million in capital plans. The school will pay \$10 million and the city will forgive a 12-year annual payment of \$550,000 to the city as agreed upon from a previous bond issue. The sales tax will help raise the \$16.5 million still needed to meet the capital plans.” [Enterprise Ledger, [7/17/14](#)]
- **Enterprise City Officials Said The Sales Tax Increase Was Necessary To Help Enterprise City Schools Meet \$26.6 Million In Capital Plans.** “The half-cent sales tax increase for the City of Enterprise was

unanimously approved Tuesday night and actually was met with little resistance from the public as only two residents chose to address the city council before the matter went to a vote. The increase moves Enterprise from 8.5 percent to 9 percent and will go into effect on Sept. 1. Enterprise's last change in sales tax was six years ago when the city moved from 8 to 8.5. The tax is actually a derivative of three taxes - 4.0 from the state, 4.0 from the city and 1.0 from the county. The increase only matches that of neighboring Dothan and Troy and is still below Montgomery's 10.0 percent. The increase was necessary, said city officials, to help the Enterprise City Schools meet its \$26.6 million in capital plans. The school will pay \$10 million and the city will forgive a 12-year annual payment of \$550,000 to the city as agreed upon from a previous bond issue. The sales tax will help raise the \$16.5 million still needed to meet the capital plans.” [Enterprise Ledger, [7/17/14](#)]

Marques Said His Priority Was Making Life Affordable, But Supported Reckless Policies That Raised Gas Prices, Worsened Inflation, And Made Life More Expensive For Alabamians

2026: Marques Said “Making Life Affordable Again For Hardworking Alabama Families Will Be My Top Priority In Congress” And “Our Families Deserve Better At The Grocery Store, At The Gas Pump, And When Trying To Afford A Home”

On His Campaign Website, Marques Said “Making Life Affordable Again For Hardworking Alabama Families Will Be My Top Priority In Congress.” “Making life affordable again for hardworking Alabama families will be my top priority in Congress. Out-of-control spending and reckless America-Last policies by DC career politicians have sent prices through the roof and put the American Dream out of reach. Our families deserve better at the grocery store, at the gas pump, and when trying to afford a home. I will fight to eliminate wasteful spending, lower taxes, and put more of your hard-earned money back in your pocket so hardworking Alabamians will prosper like never before.” [Marques for Alabama, accessed [8/4/26](#)]



★ BRINGING BACK THE AMERICAN DREAM

Making life affordable again for hardworking Alabama families will be my top priority in Congress. Out-of-control spending and reckless America-Last policies by DC career politicians have sent prices through the roof and put the American Dream out of reach. Our families deserve better at the grocery store, at the gas pump, and when trying to afford a home. I will fight to eliminate wasteful spending, lower taxes, and put more of your hard-earned money back in your pocket so hardworking Alabamians will prosper like never before.

[Marques for Alabama, accessed [8/4/26](#)]

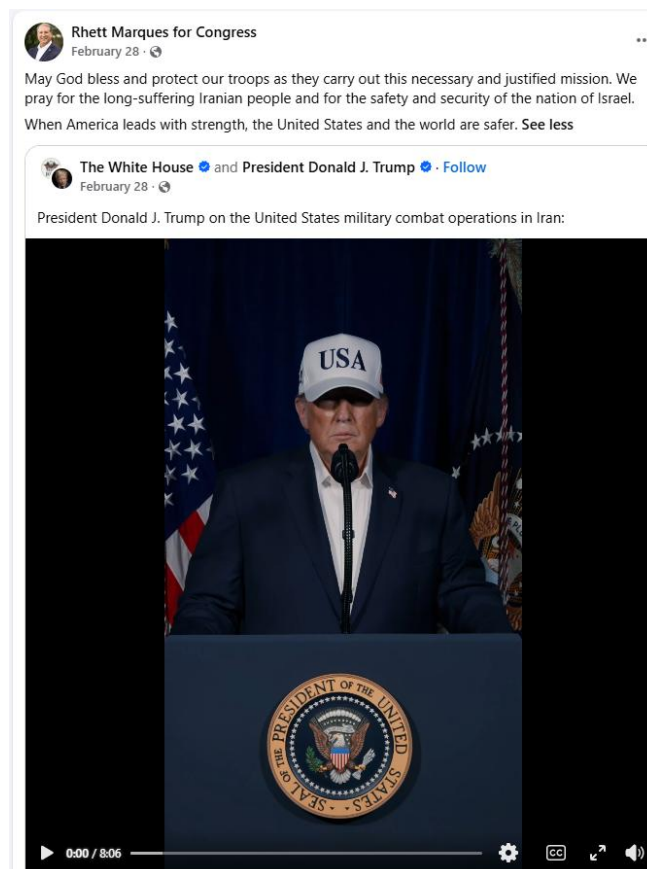
On His Campaign Website, Marques Said “Our Families Deserve Better At The Grocery Store, At The Gas Pump, And When Trying To Afford A Home.” “Making life affordable again for hardworking Alabama families will be my top priority in Congress. Out-of-control spending and reckless America-Last policies by DC career politicians have sent prices through the roof and put the American Dream out of reach. Our families deserve better at the grocery store, at the gas pump, and when trying to afford a home. I will fight to eliminate wasteful spending, lower taxes, and put more of your hard-earned money back in your pocket so hardworking Alabamians will prosper like never before.” [Marques for Alabama, accessed [8/4/26](#)]

2026: Marques Called The Iran War A “Necessary And Justified Mission” And Said The War Would “Quickly Come To Fruition”; As Of July 2026, U.S. Military Involvement Continued In Iran

2026: Marques Applauded Trump For “Taking The Initiative” In The Iran War And Said U.S. Military Operations In Iran Were A “Necessary And Justified Mission”

April VIDEO: April 2026: Marques Said Of The Iran War, “I Applaud President Trump For Taking The Initiative [...] And Getting It Taken Care Of.” “You know there is a clear path that President Trump has put us on, and that is to remove a evil regime that has been a disruptive force in that in the Middle East for 47 years, calling death to America, death to Israel, and we cannot allow them under any circumstance to have a nuclear weapon, much less ballistic missiles. We didn't even know they had ballistic missiles until they fired one 2,500 miles into the Indian Ocean at our base. So, we need to make sure that we remove this regime. It is on a path that it will be quickly, and I agree that I think it will be quickly come to fruition here shortly. But we cannot have a regime that allows giving money to Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis and causing us and our allies damage. We have got to remove them, and we got to do it now. And it has taken eight presidents to do it. And I applaud President Trump for taking the initiative and putting this to to focus and getting it taken care of. Now, I think we all should be praying right now for the military men and women who are in harm's way, I think that is important. I think we need to make sure that we pray for them each day. That we, I pray that none, no more get hurt. But we have got to remove this evil regime. We've got to make sure that they do not have a nuclear missile.” [WSFA 12 News via YouTube, 1:11:19, [4/16/26](#)] (VIDEO)

February 2026: Marques Called U.S. Military Operations In Iran A “Necessary And Justified Mission.” “May God bless and protect our troops as they carry out this necessary and justified mission. We pray for the long-suffering Iranian people and for the safety and security of the nation of Israel. When America leads with strength, the United States and the world are safer.” [Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [2/28/26](#)]



[Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [2/28/26](#)]

April 2026: Marques Said The Iran War Would “Quickly Come To Fruition Here Shortly”; As Of July 2026, U.S. Military Involvement Continued In Iran

VIDEO: April 2026: Marques Said The Iran War Would End Soon Saying, “It Is On A Path That It Will Be Quickly, And I Agree That I Think It Will Be Quickly Come To Fruition Here Shortly.” “You know there is a clear path that President Trump has put us on, and that is to remove a evil regime that has been a disruptive force in that in the Middle East for 47 years, calling death to America, death to Israel, and we cannot allow them under any circumstance to have a nuclear weapon, much less ballistic missiles. We didn't even know they had ballistic missiles until they fired one 2,500 miles into the Indian Ocean at our base. So, we need to make sure that we remove this regime. It is on a path that it will be quickly, and I agree that I think it will be quickly come to fruition here shortly. But we cannot have a regime that allows giving money to Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis and causing us and our allies damage. We have got to remove them, and we got to do it now. And it has taken eight presidents to do it. And I applaud President Trump for taking the initiative and putting this to to to focus and getting it taken care of. Now, I think we all should be praying right now for the military men and women who are in harm's way, I think that is important. I think we need to make sure that we pray for them each day. That we, I pray that none, no more get hurt. But we have got to remove this evil regime. We've got to make sure that they do not have a nuclear missile.” [WSFA 12 News via YouTube, 1:11:19, [4/16/26](#)] (VIDEO)

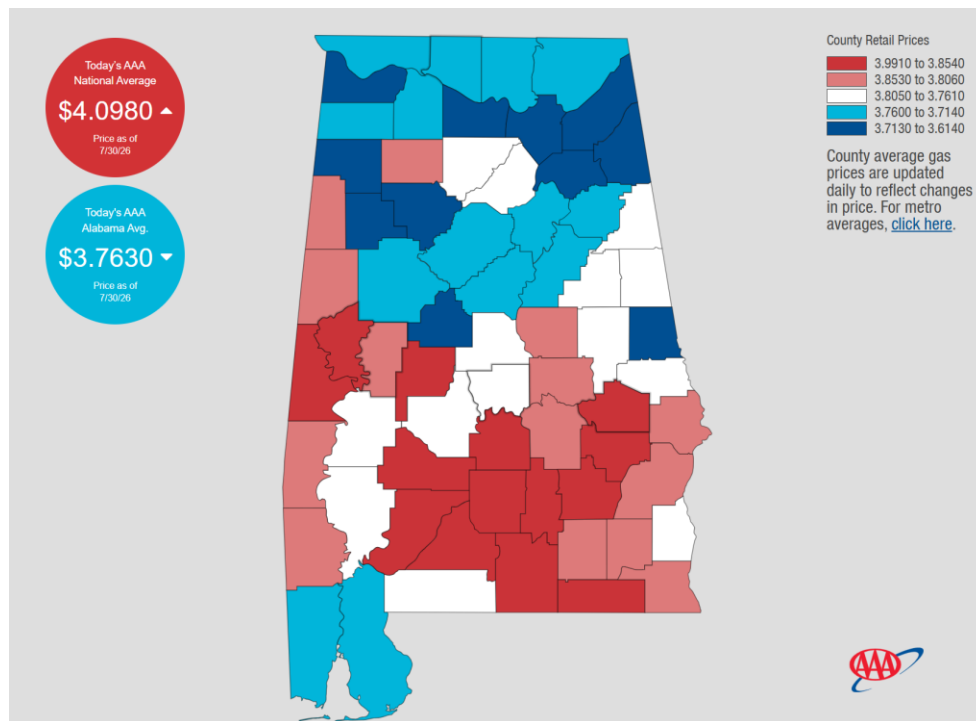
July 2026: U.S. And Iran Launched Days Of Back-And-Forth Airstrikes Across The Middle East. “The United States intensified its strikes targeting Iran early Thursday, hitting targets further north as American forces also fired into a ship it accused of trying to break its naval blockade on the Islamic Republic. Iran retaliated with missile and drone fire targeting Bahrain and Kuwait before dawn. Days of back-and-forth strikes by the U.S. and Iran across the Middle East — and renewed threats to the Strait of Hormuz — have shredded the interim deal to end the Iran war and could tip the region back into all-out war. Already, Iranian officials say U.S. strikes have killed more than 35 people and wounded more than 300 others. Strikes also reached into areas around Iran’s capital, Tehran, for the first time of this latest round of violence. When the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Iran on Feb. 28, Tehran effectively closed the strait to shipping traffic — a move that sent the price of oil, fertilizer and many other goods soaring far beyond the region and gave Iran major leverage in negotiations.” [Associated Press, [7/15/26](#)]

The Iran War Raised Gas Prices On American Consumers And Caused “Out Of Control” Inflation, Pushing Average Gas Prices In Alabama To Nearly \$4 A Gallon In July 2026
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July 2026: The Iran War Pushed Gas Prices To Nearly \$4 A Gallon In Alabama

July 2026: AAA Average: Average Gas Price In Alabama Reached Nearly \$4 A Gallon In Alabama

July 30, 2026: AAA Average: Average Gas Price In Alabama Rose To \$3.76 A Gallon. [AAA Fuel Prices, Alabama, accessed [7/30/26](#)]



[AAA Fuel Prices, Alabama, accessed [7/30/26](#)]

- **July 30, 2026: AAA Average: Average Gas Price In Montgomery Metro Area Rose To \$3.68 A Gallon.**
[AAA Fuel Prices, Montgomery Metro, accessed [7/30/26](#)]

	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.8280	\$4.3010	\$4.7450	\$5.1540

[AAA Fuel Prices, Montgomery Metro, accessed [7/30/26](#)]

- **July 2026: 1819 News Headline: “Alabama Gas Prices Increase Again As Iran Conflict Continues.”** [1819 News, [7/15/26](#)]

July 2026: President Of The Petroleum And Convenience Marketers Of Alabama Acknowledged The Iran War Rose Gas Prices Saying, “Unfortunately, Any Time There’s A Little Blip In What’s Going On Over In The Middle East That’s Going To Have An Impact On The Retail Prices On The Street”

July 2026: President Of The Petroleum And Convenience Marketers Of Alabama Said Of Rising Gas Prices, “Unfortunately, Any Time There’s A Little Blip In What’s Going On Over In The Middle East That’s Going To Have An Impact On The Retail Prices On The Street.” “Alabama drivers are starting to see price increases at the pump again as tensions between the United States and Iran intensify. According to AAA, the average price of unleaded gasoline was \$3.54 per gallon in Alabama on Wednesday. The average price of unleaded in Alabama was \$3.46 one week ago, according to AAA. One month ago, the average price was \$3.68. The average price was \$2.77 one year ago. ‘We’ve seen an increase at the wholesale level following the renewal of fighting over in the Middle East. Oil markets are worldwide and very volatile and very sensitive to things like that,’ Bart Fletcher, president of the Petroleum and Convenience Marketers of Alabama, told 1819 News recently. ‘Unfortunately, any time there’s a little blip in what’s going on over in the Middle East that’s going to have an impact on the retail prices on the street. We hope that it kind of smooths out again but at this point it has ticked up just a little bit.’ The average price of diesel in Alabama was \$4.66 per gallon, up from \$4.49 a month ago. The national average of unleaded gasoline on

Wednesday was \$3.89.” [1819 News, [7/15/26](#)]

July 2026: President Of The Petroleum And Convenience Marketers Of Alabama Said Of Rising Gas Prices, “We’ve Seen An Increase At The Wholesale Level Following The Renewal Of Fighting Over In The Middle East. Oil Markets Are Worldwide And Very Volatile And Very Sensitive To Things Like That.” “Alabama drivers are starting to see price increases at the pump again as tensions between the United States and Iran intensify. According to AAA, the average price of unleaded gasoline was \$3.54 per gallon in Alabama on Wednesday. The average price of unleaded in Alabama was \$3.46 one week ago, according to AAA. One month ago, the average price was \$3.68. The average price was \$2.77 one year ago. ‘We’ve seen an increase at the wholesale level following the renewal of fighting over in the Middle East. Oil markets are worldwide and very volatile and very sensitive to things like that,’ Bart Fletcher, president of the Petroleum and Convenience Marketers of Alabama, told 1819 News recently. ‘Unfortunately, any time there’s a little blip in what’s going on over in the Middle East that’s going to have an impact on the retail prices on the street. We hope that it kind of smooths out again but at this point it has ticked up just a little bit.’ The average price of diesel in Alabama was \$4.66 per gallon, up from \$4.49 a month ago. The national average of unleaded gasoline on Wednesday was \$3.89.” [1819 News, [7/15/26](#)]

May 2026: The Iran War Caused Diesel And Gasoline Prices To Set Record Highs, With Costs Trickling Down To Consumers Purchasing Everyday Goods

May 2026: Politico: “Diesel Fuel Costs Are Also Poised To Set An All-Time High In The U.S., Which In Turn Is Expected To Drive Up Prices For Everything From Groceries To Postage.” “Most Americans are focused on the cost of gasoline at the station up the street — but diesel fuel costs are also poised to set an all-time high in the U.S., which in turn is expected to drive up prices for everything from groceries to postage. A spike in diesel fuel affects a wide array of commodities that need to move across the country – including for home building, manufacturing and much more. And it couldn’t come at a worse time for President Donald Trump and Republicans, just months ahead of the contentious midterm election season in which Democrats are expected to take back the House and possibly the Senate amid intensifying voter anger over the rising cost of living and the unpopular war in Iran.” [Politico, [5/6/26](#)]

Politico: “Diesel Fuel May Soon Break [A Price] Record And A Gallon Of Regular Gas, Which Stood At An Average Of \$4.46 On Tuesday, Is Also Closing In On The Record Price Of \$5.02.” “For the last two months, administration officials have argued that their energy policies protected the American consumers from Iranian war price shocks and that fuel was cheaper under Trump than Biden. But diesel fuel may soon break that record and a gallon of regular gas, which stood at an average of \$4.46 on Tuesday, is also closing in on the record price of \$5.02.” [Politico, [5/6/26](#)]

Politico: The “Inflationary Impact Of High Diesel” Affects “The Cost Of Everything From Eggs To Sneakers,” And Results In Price Rises That Are “Passed Along To Consumers.” “Beyond the impacts to the cost of everything from eggs to sneakers, the inflationary impact of high diesel fuel lasts much longer in the economy than gasoline prices, said John Auers, analyst at consulting firm RBN Energy. Trucking, rail and freight companies sign long-term supply contracts for their diesel, meaning that a higher price will be baked into their costs – and passed along to consumers — for months at a time.” [Politico, [5/6/26](#)]

Politico: 2026’s Increases In Fuel Prices Are “Largely Due To The U.S. And Israel Attack On Iran And The Subsequent Closure Of Hormuz.” “When fuel prices hit record highs under Biden, it was largely due to post-Covid supply disruptions and because Russia’s war on Ukraine threatened global energy markets. The current price increase is largely due to the U.S. and Israel attack on Iran and the subsequent closure of Hormuz. Diesel prices in February, before U.S. and Israeli forces attacked Iran, were about \$3.75.” [Politico, [5/6/26](#)]

Associated Press: “U.S. Consumer Prices Climbed Sharply Again Last Month As The 10-Week War With Iran Delivered Higher Gasoline Prices And More Pain For Americans.” “U.S. consumer prices climbed sharply again last month as the 10-week war with Iran delivered higher gasoline prices and more pain for Americans. The Labor Department’s consumer price index rose 3.8% from April 2025, the biggest jump in three years, and up from a 3.3% year-over-year gain in March. On a month-to-month basis, April prices rose 0.6% from

March as gasoline prices rose 5.4%, according to the data released Tuesday. The month-over-month gain was down from a 0.9% increase in overall prices from February to March, when the initial financial shock from the war hit the U.S. economy.” [AP, [5/12/26](#)]

April 2026: “Out Of Control” Inflation Climbed Faster Than Any Point Since May 2023, With The Iran War Spiking Prices For Food And Fuel

Politico Headline: “‘Out Of Control’: Inflation Surges To Highest Point In 3 Years, Driven By Energy.”
[Politico, [5/12/26](#)]

April 2026: Inflation Climbed Faster Than Any Point Since May 2023, With The Iran War Spiking Prices For Food And Fuel. “Inflation climbed faster than at any point in the last three years in April as fuel and food prices surged due to the war in Iran. The Labor Department on Tuesday reported that the consumer price index increased at an annual rate of 3.8 percent — the highest since May 2023 — with rising energy costs accounting for more than 40 percent of the spike. Food prices at grocery stores and restaurants also rose, and shelter prices shot up. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy costs, ticked higher at a rate of 2.8 percent.” [Politico, [5/12/26](#)]

- **Politico: “Core Inflation, Which Excludes Food And Energy Costs, Ticked Higher At A Rate Of 2.8 Percent.”** “Inflation climbed faster than at any point in the last three years in April as fuel and food prices surged due to the war in Iran. The Labor Department on Tuesday reported that the consumer price index increased at an annual rate of 3.8 percent — the highest since May 2023 — with rising energy costs accounting for more than 40 percent of the spike. Food prices at grocery stores and restaurants also rose, and shelter prices shot up. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy costs, ticked higher at a rate of 2.8 percent.” [Politico, [5/12/26](#)]

2026: Marques Was Endorsed By House Republican Leadership Who Repeatedly Voted To Extend Tariffs

2026: House Republican Leadership Endorsed Marques

2026: Marques Said He Was “Grateful To Have The Support Of President Trump And Congressional Leadership,” Including Mike Johnson, Steve Scalise, Tom Emmer, Lisa McClain. “Grateful to have the support of President Trump and Congressional Leadership. Republicans are uniting to defend our conservative values and reclaim this seat for the GOP. I look forward to bringing Alabama common sense to Congress and joining the Republican majority. Joint House Republican leadership endorsement statement from Mike Johnson, Steve Scalise, Tom Emmer, Lisa McClain: ‘Rhett Marques is an America First patriot who will help us continue to deliver safe streets, secure borders, a strong economy, and peace through strength. As a small business owner and conservative state legislator, Rhett will also help support job creators, our farmers, our veterans, and all the principles that have made America the greatest nation on Earth. We are proud to ENDORSE Rhett Marques for Alabama’s 2nd District, and look forward to working with him to defend and grow our House Republican majority and CONTINUE our American comeback!’ [Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [6/22/26](#)]



[Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [6/22/26](#)]

2026: House Republicans Repeatedly Voted To Extend Trump's Tariffs

February 2026: House Republicans Overwhelmingly Voted To Delay Overturning Trump's Tariffs. "The House on Tuesday rejected a Republican effort to change the chamber's rules and delay for months any vote on canceling President Trump's tariffs, as G.O.P. defectors rebuked party leaders who have tried for a year to avoid weighing in on levies that are unpopular with many voters. The defeat cleared the way for Democrats to immediately force a vote on terminating the emergency Mr. Trump declared more than a year ago that imposed tariffs on several nations and kicked off his global trade war. It came after Republicans had sought for the third time this congressional term to use a procedural trick to bend the rules of time, turning months into a single day in the interest of avoiding a tariff vote, and effectively nullifying their chamber's statutory authority to have a say on the matter. By law, the House would ordinarily be required to vote within 15 days on any bid to cancel the tariffs. But by manipulating how long a legislative 'day' is, Republican leaders have in effect ignored the calendar. Speaker Mike Johnson had quietly tucked language into a procedural measure needed to bring up unrelated legislation that would have again changed the rules and blocked a tariff vote until after July 31. But after spending most of Tuesday pressing his members to support the maneuver — including nearly an hour on the House floor while the vote remained open — three Republicans refused to do so." [New York Times, [2/10/26](#)]

September 2025: House Republicans Blocked Democrats' Efforts To Force A Vote On Trump's Tariffs. "The Republican-led House moved anew on Tuesday to relinquish Congress's power to weigh in on President Trump's tariffs, even as Democrats in the Senate prepared to force votes challenging his trade war. The maneuver by House Republicans effectively stripped lawmakers of the ability to force action on lifting the tariffs until March 31, 2026, extending a prohibition they initially imposed in the spring to spare their members a politically tough vote. It came after Representative Gregory W. Meeks of New York, the top Democrat on the Foreign Affairs Committee, tried to

surprise Republicans with a bid to block the president's tariffs on Brazil. His measure was swiftly defeated, and within hours, G.O.P. leaders moved to head off a similar vote. That effort, tucked into a routine procedural measure, passed on Tuesday afternoon almost entirely along party lines." [New York Times, [9/16/25](#)]

- **September 2025: New York Times Headline: "G.O.P. Again Cedes Power On Tariffs To Avoid Crossing Trump."** [New York Times, [9/16/25](#)]

April 2025: House Republican Temporarily Blocked Lawmakers From Forcing A Vote On Repealing Trump's Tariffs. "House Republican leaders maneuvered on Wednesday to spare their members a politically tricky vote on President Trump's tariffs in the coming months by tucking language into an unrelated measure that would temporarily bar lawmakers from using their power under the law to force such a vote. This is the second time Republicans have deployed the unusual procedural tactic to sideline Congress on trade matters as lawmakers continue to hear panic from constituents and donors about the adverse effects of Mr. Trump's moves on trade. Last month, they did so as part of a measure needed to bring up a spending bill to prevent a government shutdown. On Wednesday, Republicans inserted the same kind of language into a measure needed to bring up the G.O.P. budget plan. It was scheduled for a vote later Wednesday afternoon. The move came just hours before Mr. Trump announced he was pausing most of the reciprocal tariffs he announced last week for 90 days. But it underscored the angst those levies have sown among members of Congress, including many Republicans, who could pay a political price for their impacts. The maneuver effectively deprives lawmakers in both parties who have sponsored legislation to terminate Mr. Trump's tariffs from forcing their measures to the House floor. The National Emergencies Act allows members of Congress to take such action and have their proposals considered by a committee within 15 days and a floor vote within three days after that. But under the measure being pushed by Republicans, the House would declare the roughly six-month period until Sept. 30 a single calendar day, effectively circumventing that process." [New York Times, [4/9/25](#)]

- **April 2025: New York Times Headline: "House Republicans Move To Prevent Vote On Repealing Trump's Tariffs."** [New York Times, [4/9/25](#)]

March 2025: House Republicans Pushed Through A Procedural Measure That Blocked Votes To End Trump's Tariffs. "House Republican leaders on Tuesday quietly moved to shield their members from having to vote on whether to end President Trump's tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China, tucking language into a procedural measure that effectively removed their chamber's ability to undo the levies. The maneuver was a tacit acknowledgment of how politically toxic the issue had become for their party, and another example of how the all-Republican Congress is ceding its power to the executive branch. In this case, Republican leaders did so using a particularly unusual contortion: They essentially declared the rest of the year one long day, nullifying a law that allows the House and Senate to jointly put an end to a disaster declared by the president. House Democrats had planned to force a vote on resolutions to end the tariffs on Mexico and Canada, a move allowed under the National Emergencies Act, which provides a mechanism for Congress to terminate an emergency like the one Mr. Trump declared when he imposed the tariffs on Feb. 1. That would have forced Republicans — many of whom are opposed to tariffs as a matter of principle — to go on the record on the issue at a time when Mr. Trump's commitment to tariffs has spooked the financial markets and spiked concerns of reigniting inflation. But Republican leaders on Tuesday slipped language into a procedural measure that would prevent any resolution to end the tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China from receiving a vote this year. It passed on party lines as part of a resolution that cleared the way for a vote later Tuesday on a government spending bill needed to prevent a shutdown at the end of the week." [New York Times, [3/13/25](#)]

- **March 2025: New York Times Headline: "Republicans Quietly Cede Power to Cancel Trump's Tariffs, Avoiding a Tough Vote."** [New York Times, [3/13/25](#)]

Reckless Tariffs Cost Alabama Families Thousands Of Dollars A Year, Raised The Costs Of Everyday Goods, And Worsened Inflation

2025: Trump Announced Sweeping Tariffs On Nearly All U.S. Trading Partners, Including A 34% Tax On Imports From China And A 20% Tax On Imports From The European Union

2025: Trump Announced Far-Reaching New Tariffs On Nearly All U.S. Trading Partners — A 34% Tax On Imports From China And 20% On The European Union, Among Others. “President Donald Trump announced far-reaching new tariffs on nearly all U.S. trading partners — a 34% tax on imports from China and 20% on the European Union, among others — that threaten to dismantle much of the architecture of the global economy and trigger broader trade wars. Trump, in a Rose Garden announcement on Wednesday, said he was placing elevated tariff rates on dozens of nations that run meaningful trade surpluses with the United States, while imposing a 10% baseline tax on imports from all countries in response to what he called an economic emergency.” [Associated Press, [4/3/25](#)]

2025: Trump Imposed A 10% Baseline Tax On Imports From All Countries. “President Donald Trump announced far-reaching new tariffs on nearly all U.S. trading partners — a 34% tax on imports from China and 20% on the European Union, among others — that threaten to dismantle much of the architecture of the global economy and trigger broader trade wars. Trump, in a Rose Garden announcement on Wednesday, said he was placing elevated tariff rates on dozens of nations that run meaningful trade surpluses with the United States, while imposing a 10% baseline tax on imports from all countries in response to what he called an economic emergency.” [Associated Press, [4/3/25](#)]

2026: The Joint Economic Committee Estimated Tariffs Would Cost American Families More Than \$2,500 A Year On Average

Joint Economic Committee Minority: “American Families Will Pay More Than \$2,500 Each In Tariff Costs In 2026.” “Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the bulk of President Trump’s tariff agenda was illegal, the administration moved immediately to enact new tariffs that Treasury Secretary Bessent claims will result in ‘virtually unchanged tariff revenue in 2026’. If Bessent’s estimates hold true, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority estimates that American families will pay more than \$2,500 each in tariff costs in 2026. Building on its previous tariff cost estimates, the Committee combined official data from the U.S. Treasury Department on the amount of tariff revenue collected since the start of 2025 with independent estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office of the percent of each tariff dollar that is ultimately paid by American consumers. The Committee found that if tariff revenue stays at the level recorded in January 2026 for the rest of the year, American families would in total pay more than \$330 billion in tariff costs in 2026, an average of more than \$2,500 per household in tariff costs this year. This is substantially higher than the more than \$1,700 in average tariff costs that the JEC – Minority previously estimated that families paid during the first year of Trump’s second term.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Fact Sheet, [March 2026](#)]

- **January 2025-February 2026: Trump’s Tariffs Cost Americans An Average Of More Than \$1,700 Per Family.** “Following the Supreme Court’s decision today to overturn Trump’s tariffs, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority released an updated report estimating that American families have already paid more than \$1,700 each in tariff costs since President Trump took office. Combining Treasury Department data on the amount of tariff revenue collected across the first year of Trump’s term with independent estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office of the percent of each tariff dollar that is paid by American consumers, the Committee found that they paid more than \$231 billion in total tariff costs between February 2025 and January 2026, an average of more than \$1,700 per family.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, [2/26/26](#)]

Joint Economic Committee Minority: With The Trump Administration’s Projected Tariff Policy, “American Families Would In Total Pay More Than \$300 Billion In Tariff Costs In 2026.” “Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the bulk of President Trump’s tariff agenda was illegal, the administration moved immediately to enact new tariffs that Treasury Secretary Bessent claims will result in ‘virtually unchanged tariff revenue in 2026’. If Bessent’s estimates hold true, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority estimates that American families will pay more than \$2,500 each in tariff costs in 2026. Building on its previous tariff cost estimates, the Committee combined official data from the U.S. Treasury Department on the amount of tariff revenue collected since the start

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Tariffs Raised Costs On Everything From Groceries To Pharmaceuticals To Cars, Straining Alabamians’ Pocketbooks

2026: Tariffs Were Estimated To Cost American Families More Than \$2,500 Each In One Year

Joint Economic Committee Minority: “American Families Will Pay More Than \$2,500 Each In Tariff Costs In 2026.” “Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the bulk of President Trump’s tariff agenda was illegal, the administration moved immediately to enact new tariffs that Treasury Secretary Bessent claims will result in ‘virtually unchanged tariff revenue in 2026’. If Bessent’s estimates hold true, the Joint Economic Committee – Minority estimates that American families will pay more than \$2,500 each in tariff costs in 2026. Building on its previous tariff cost estimates, the Committee combined official data from the U.S. Treasury Department on the amount of tariff revenue collected since the start of 2025 with independent estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office of the percent of each tariff dollar that is ultimately paid by American consumers. The Committee found that if tariff revenue stays at the level recorded in January 2026 for the rest of the year, American families would in total pay more than \$330 billion in tariff costs in 2026, an average of more than \$2,500 per household in tariff costs this year. This is substantially higher than the more than \$1,700 in average tariff costs that the JEC – Minority previously estimated that families paid during the first year of Trump’s second term.” [Joint Economic Committee Minority, Fact Sheet, [March 2026](#)]

Tariffs Raised The Cost Of Groceries And Household Goods

September 2025: Axios Headline: “Grocery Inflation Highest Since 2022 As Trump Tariffs Pile Up.” [Axios, [9/11/25](#)]

- **Trump’s Tariffs Contributed To Prices Rising For Groceries.** “President Donald Trump pledged to bring down grocery costs. But his administration’s policies are contributing to an acceleration in prices, food economists and companies say. Grocery prices last month rose at their fastest pace in three years, stoked by Trump’s tariffs, a crackdown on immigration, and extreme weather hurting food production. Prices jumped 0.6% in August from the month prior, according to the latest reading from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and they are up 2.7% from a year ago. Food prices are deeply personal to consumers, and weekly grocery bills shape their overall perceptions of the economy. More than half of Americans count grocery costs as a major stress in their lives. Low-income and middle-income Americans, hit the hardest by rising grocery costs, are changing where they shop and what they buy. Companies are also taking extreme measures to appeal to shoppers strained by higher prices, such as bringing back paper coupons.” [CNN, [9/20/25](#)]

CNN Headline: “The Maker Of Tide And Charmin Said It Will Raise Prices In Part Because Of Tariffs.” [CNN, [7/29/25](#)]

Procter & Gamble, Maker Of Household Staples Including Detergent And Toilet Paper Raised Prices Because Of Donald Trump’s Tariffs. “Procter & Gamble, the maker of several household staples including Tide detergent and Charmin toilet paper, is hiking prices because of President Donald Trump’s tariffs.” [CNN, [7/29/25](#)]

September 2025: Tariffs On Drug Imports Could Raise Prices For Americans

Trump’s Tariffs On Drug Product Imports Could Raise Prices For Americans. “Analysts are already warning that U.S. consumers could see higher prices due to new tariffs President Donald Trump plans to impose on drug product imports as soon as next week. But a series of exemptions may blunt the ultimate impact. In a Truth Social

post late Thursday, Trump said that any branded or patented pharmaceutical products brought into the U.S. would face a 100% tariff starting Oct. 1.” [NBC News, [9/26/25](#)]

Tariffs Spiked Car Prices

Kelley Blue Book: “President Trump Has Announced A 25% Tariff On All Cars Built Outside The United States And On Many Parts Used In Cars Built Here. [...] Shoppers Can Expect The Tariffs To Increase Car Prices By As Much As \$6,000 On Vehicles Priced Under \$40,000.” “President Trump has announced a 25% tariff on all cars built outside the United States and on many parts used in cars built here. See our latest news updates below on where tariffs stand. Effective Dates: Imported Cars: Tariffs began on April 3. Car Parts: Tariffs began on May 3. These tariffs have started to increase car prices. To save money, consider locking in a new car deal before any potential price increases take effect. Can You Avoid a Car Tariff? No vehicle made at an assembly plant in the United States is 100% made here. Even Tesla sources its parts from other countries. This means that with tariffs, car prices will increase for American car buyers, though the timing remains unclear. You can potentially avoid paying a tariff on a new car by purchasing one that was imported to the U.S. before the tariffs took effect, or by buying a used car. How Will Tariffs Affect Car Buying? If new cars become too expensive, used cars will become more attractive. However, if demand spikes, used car prices may also increase. Here’s more information: New cars: Shoppers can expect the tariffs to increase car prices by as much as \$6,000 on vehicles priced under \$40,000. Higher car prices mean higher car taxes, financing, car insurance, and other ownership costs. This price pressure will make cars less affordable for consumers.” [Kelley Blue Book, [9/15/25](#)]

Tariffs Worsened Inflation

Reuters Headline: “Powell Says Tariffs Keeping Inflation Elevated, Fed Watching Energy Prices Closely.” [Reuters, [3/18/26](#)]

March 2026: Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell Estimated That “A Big Chunk Of” The Current High Inflation Rate “Is Actually Tariffs.” “Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Wednesday described significant challenges in bringing inflation down, from persistent tariff-driven price hikes to Iran war-driven energy price hikes that the U.S. central bank may not be able to ‘look through’ as a transitory shock. Powell, speaking in a press conference after the end of the Fed’s latest two-day policy meeting, said the central bank needs to see core inflation come down this year as the one-time impact of President Donald Trump’s tariffs pass through the economy. Inflation, as measured by the Fed’s preferred gauge, has remained well above the central bank’s 2% target, at about 3%, and ‘some big chunk of that, between a half and three-quarters is actually tariffs, so we’re looking for progress on that,’ Powell said.” [Reuters, [3/18/26](#)]

- **Reuters: “Inflation [...] Has Remained Well Above The Central Bank’s 2% Target, At About 3%, And ‘Some Big Chunk Of That, Between A Half And Three-Quarters Is Actually Tariffs’,” According To Fed Chair Jerome Powell.** “Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Wednesday described significant challenges in bringing inflation down, from persistent tariff-driven price hikes to Iran war-driven energy price hikes that the U.S. central bank may not be able to ‘look through’ as a transitory shock. Powell, speaking in a press conference after the end of the Fed’s latest two-day policy meeting, said the central bank needs to see core inflation come down this year as the one-time impact of President Donald Trump’s tariffs pass through the economy. Inflation, as measured by the Fed’s preferred gauge, has remained well above the central bank’s 2% target, at about 3%, and ‘some big chunk of that, between a half and three-quarters is actually tariffs, so we’re looking for progress on that,’ Powell said.” [Reuters, [3/18/26](#)]

Associated Press Headline: “U.S. Producer Prices Surge In July As Trump Tariffs Push Costs Higher.” [Associated Press, [8/14/25](#)]

New York Times Headline: “Key Inflation Gauge Sped Up In July As Companies Grappled With Tariffs.” [New York Times, [8/12/25](#)]

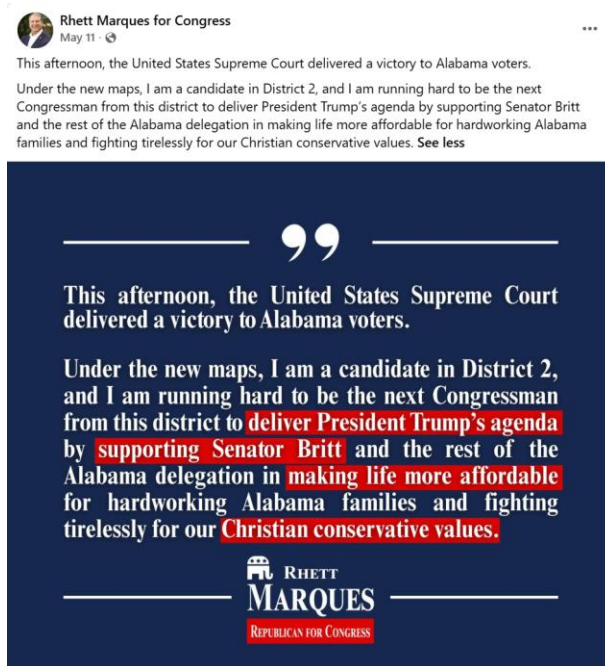
Marques Celebrated The Supreme Court's Decision To Allow The Disenfranchisement Of Black Voters In Alabama, And As A Member Of The State Legislature And Candidate For Congress, Said He Personally Would Have Voted To Eliminate Every Majority-Black District In The State

2026: Marques Praised The Supreme Court's Decisions To Allow Alabama To Use A Congressional Map That Eliminated A Majority-Black District, Which Republican Judges Admitted Was "Intentionally Discriminatory"

May 2026: Marques Praised The Supreme Court's Decision To Vacate A Lower Court Order Requiring Alabama To Have Two Majority-Black Congressional Districts

May 2026: Marques Said, "The United States Supreme Court Delivered A Victory To Alabama Voters."

"This afternoon, the United States Supreme Court delivered a victory to Alabama voters. Under the new maps, I am a candidate in District 2, and I am running hard to be the next Congressman from this district to deliver President Trump's agenda by supporting Senator Britt and the rest of the Alabama delegation in making life more affordable for hardworking Alabama families and fighting tirelessly for our Christian conservative values." [Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [5/11/26](#)]



[Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [5/11/26](#)]

May 2026: The Supreme Court Vacated A Lower Court Order That Required Alabama To Use A Congressional Map With Two Majority-Black Districts. "The U.S. Supreme Court has paved the way for Alabama to adopt a new congressional map, which could leave the state with one majority-Black district. The ruling comes a little more than a week before Alabama's primary elections on May 19. The latest decision, known as *Allen v. Caster*, lifts the court's block on Alabama's previous congressional map, alongside any changes to the current one, until 2030. In *Allen v. Milligan*, the court previously ruled in 2023 that the state's 2021 map was racially discriminatory under the Voting Rights Act and ordered Alabama to add a second Black-majority district. The Supreme Court vacated the decisions of *Allen v. Caster*, *Allen v. Singleton* and *Allen v. Milligan*, sending the cases back to the lower courts for further action. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama will decide whether the 2021 map violated the Voting Rights Act, 'in light of *Louisiana v. Callais*.' The decision comes weeks after the Supreme Court decided *Louisiana v. Callais*, which ruled that Louisiana's 2024 congressional map was 'illegal racial gerrymandering.' Louisiana's map had been redrawn to create a second majority-Black district

after a lower court ruled that the original map violated the Voting Rights Act.” [Auburn Plainsman, [5/11/26](#)]

- **May 2026: After The Supreme Court Ended An Order Requiring Alabama To Have Two Majority-Black Congressional Districts, Marques Changed From Running In AL-01 To AL-02.** “The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday ended an order requiring Alabama to have two Black districts in the U.S. House of Representatives. Alabama will revert to having one majority Black congressional district this year as part of a 6-3 Supreme Court decision that upended next week's states primary elections. [...] State Rep. Rhett Marques, previously a leading candidate in next week's 1st Congressional District GOP primary, now says he will run in District 2.” [AL.com, [5/12/26](#)]
- **May 2026: Courthouse News Service Headline: “Supreme Court Lets Alabama Use Racially Gerrymandered Map In 2026 Midterms.”** [Courthouse News Service, [5/11/26](#)]

June 2026: Marques Celebrated The Supreme Court’s Decision To Grant Alabama’s Emergency Appeal To Use A Congressional Map With A Single Majority-Black District In The 2026 Midterm Elections

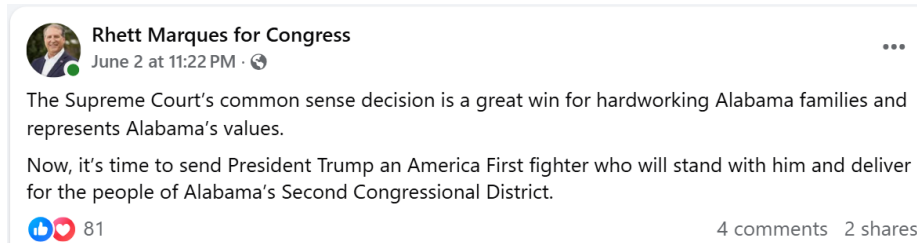
May 2026: After The Supreme Court Vacated A Lower Court Ruling Requiring Alabama To Use A Map With Two Majority-Black Districts, A Panel Of Three Republican Judges Found A Map With Single Black District Was “Intentionally Discriminatory”

May 2026: After The Supreme Court Vacated A Lower Court Decision Requiring Alabama To Use A Congressional Map With Two Majority-Black Districts, A Panel Of Three Republican Judges Concluded Unanimously That Map With A Single Black District Was “Intentionally Discriminatory.” “In April, the Supreme Court's conservative supermajority all but gutted what remains of the Voting Rights Act, ruling that states cannot purposefully draw districts that are majority-minority. Alabama then asked the high court to reinstate the state's old map, under the theory that this new ruling meant that it was permissible to use a map with only one majority-Black district. In an unsigned, unexplained order in May, the high court essentially reversed its previous opinions, and allowed Alabama to use the old map for the upcoming midterm elections. This set off a flurry of activity in Alabama. By the time the Supreme Court issued its May order, absentee balloting had already begun, using the court-drawn map. So Republican Gov. Kay Ivey cancelled elections and scheduled a special primary for August for the affected congressional races. The case, however, was not over. In its ruling, the Supreme Court had ordered a lower court panel to continue evaluating Alabama's map in light of its recent Voting Rights Act decision. And just 15 days after that order, the panel, composed of three Republican judges — two of them Trump appointees — concluded unanimously that even under the Supreme Court's new standards, the plan for a single Black district was ‘intentionally discriminatory.’” [NPR, [6/2/26](#)]

- **Two Of The Republican Judges Who Found Alabama’s Map With A Single Majority-Black District “Intentionally Discriminatory” Were Trump Appointees.** “So Republican Gov. Kay Ivey cancelled elections and scheduled a special primary for August for the affected congressional races. The case, however, was not over. In its ruling, the Supreme Court had ordered a lower court panel to continue evaluating Alabama's map in light of its recent Voting Rights Act decision. And just 15 days after that order, the panel, composed of three Republican judges — two of them Trump appointees — concluded unanimously that even under the Supreme Court's new standards, the plan for a single Black district was ‘intentionally discriminatory.’” [NPR, [6/2/26](#)]

June 2026: The Supreme Court Granted Alabama’s Emergency Appeal To Use A Congressional Map With A Single Majority-Black District; Marques Celebrated The Court’s “Common Sense Decision” As A “Great Win For Hardworking Alabama Families”

June 2026: Marques Said The Supreme Court’s “Common Sense Decision” Was “Great Win For Hardworking Alabama Families And Represents Alabama’s Values.” “The Supreme Court’s common sense decision is a great win for hardworking Alabama families and represents Alabama’s values. Now, it’s time to send President Trump an America First fighter who will stand with him and deliver for the people of Alabama’s Second Congressional District.” [Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [6/2/26](#)]



[Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [6/2/26](#)]

June 2026: The Supreme Court Granted Alabama's Emergency Appeal To Use A Congressional Map With One Majority-Black District, Overturing A Lower Three-Judge Panel's Decision. "The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed Alabama to use a congressional map favoring Republicans in this year's elections, blocking a lower court ruling that the redistricting plan intentionally discriminates against Black people. The justices granted the state's emergency appeal to use a map it adopted three years ago that has a majority-Black population in just one of its seven congressional districts. The three liberal justices dissented. [...] The state's Republican leadership went to the Supreme Court last week, the day after a three-judge court refused to let the state use its preferred map. The lower court had ordered Alabama to use the same court-drawn map it used in the 2024 elections that sent two Black Democrats to Congress. Black residents comprise a majority or close to it in two of the state's seven congressional districts." [Associated Press, [6/3/26](#)]

- **June 2026: The Supreme Court's Decision Cleared The Way For Alabama To Use A Map That A Three-Judge District Court Panel Found "Tainted By Intentional Race-Based Discrimination" In The 2026 Midterm Elections.** "The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday cleared the way for Alabama to use a congressional district map favored by Republicans. The court, in an unsigned order, overturned a three-judge district court panel that found that the map is 'tainted by intentional race-based discrimination.' The Supreme Court's three liberals publicly dissented. The ruling means that Alabama's 2026 midterm elections will feature six Republican-leaning districts and one Democratic-leaning one, as opposed to a map with only five safe Republican seats." [NPR, [6/2/26](#)]

Courthouse News Service: "Black Alabamians Make Up 27% Of The State's Voting-Age Population But Only Represent The Majority In One Of Seven Of The State's Congressional Districts"

Courthouse News Service: "Black Alabamians Make Up 27% Of The State's Voting-Age Population But Only Represent The Majority In One Of Seven Of The State's Congressional Districts." "Black Alabamians make up 27% of the state's voting-age population but only represent the majority in one of seven of the state's congressional districts. Alabama lawmakers have been fighting against adding a second majority-Black district for the better part of five years. Alabama's 2021 congressional maps split the Black Belt, breaking Montgomery into two districts for the first time. Voting rights groups challenged the maps under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits voting practices that discriminate based on race. The Supreme Court found the map unlawful in 2023, ordering lawmakers to redraw the districts to include a second Black majority district. But the Republican leadership refused to comply." [Courthouse News Service, [5/11/26](#)]

June 2026: The NAACP General Counsel Said The Supreme Court's Decision To Allow Alabama To Eliminate A Majority-Black District "Stripp[ed] Black Voters Of Power And Voice At A Speed That Would Put Jim Crow Jurists To Shame"

June 2026: The NAACP General Counsel Said Of The Supreme Court's Decision To Allow Alabama To Eliminate A Majority-Black District, "This Is A Court That Is Stripping Black Voters Of Power And Voice At A Speed That Would Put Jim Crow Jurists To Shame." "The Supreme Court on Tuesday night allowed Alabama to use in November's elections a new map for congressional districts that a lower federal court ruled was discriminatory to Black voters. The 6-3 ruling by the Supreme Court, which will eliminate one of the two majority Black districts in Alabama, is expected to result in Republicans gaining one seat from the state in the House of

Representatives in the upcoming midterm elections. [...] NAACP General Counsel Kristen Clarke blasted the ruling. ‘The Supreme Court continues to unleash chaos in our democratic process, and with this latest action, gives Alabama approval to use a congressional map that had previously been found to be intentionally discriminatory,’ Clarke said in a statement. ‘This is a Court that is stripping Black voters of power and voice at a speed that would put Jim Crow jurists to shame,’ she said. ‘Our message to communities remains the same — the best way to express dissent is by showing up at the ballot box this election season.’” [CBNC, [6/3/26](#)]

June 2026: ACLU Of Alabama And The Legal Defense Fund Condemned The Supreme Court’s “Shameless” Decision To Allow Alabama To Use Its “Racially Discriminatory Map”

June 2026: Director Of Litigation At The Legal Defense Fund Said Of The Supreme Court’s Decision, “The Court’s Shameless Decision To Reinstate A Racially Discriminatory Map Defies Any Thoughtful Or Consistent Application Of The Law.” “Today, the U.S. Supreme Court granted Alabama a stay in the ongoing voting rights case, Milligan v. Allen, allowing Alabama to use its 2023 racially discriminatory congressional map. [...] ‘The Supreme Court’s decision gives cover to Alabama and others to deliberately and openly discriminate against Black voters without fear of any consequence,’ said Deuel Ross, Director of Litigation at the Legal Defense Fund. ‘The Court’s shameless decision to reinstate a racially discriminatory map defies any thoughtful or consistent application of the law. We will continue to throw all of our resources into the fight to ensure that Alabama voters have the fair representation that they deserve in Congress.’” [ACLU of Alabama, Press Release, [6/2/26](#)]

June 2026: Deputy Director Of The ACLU’s Voting Rights Project Said Of The Supreme Court’s Decision, “Today’s Ruling Delays Relief For Voters Who Have Already Spent Years Fighting For An Equal Opportunity To Elect Candidates Of Their Choice And To Have Their Voices Heard.” “Today, the U.S. Supreme Court granted Alabama a stay in the ongoing voting rights case, Milligan v. Allen, allowing Alabama to use its 2023 racially discriminatory congressional map. [...] ‘The Court’s decision allowing Alabama to use a racially discriminatory map in its congressional elections this year cannot be squared with the Constitution or Voting Rights Act,’ said Davin Rosborough, deputy director of the ACLU’s Voting Rights Project. ‘Today’s ruling delays relief for voters who have already spent years fighting for an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice and to have their voices heard. We remain committed to pursuing equal opportunities in Congress for our clients and Black Alabamians. We will fight for those rights even in the face of those who continue to move the goalposts and undo our nation’s progress in realizing its promise as a multi-racial democracy.’” [ACLU of Alabama, Press Release, [6/2/26](#)]

2026: Marques Abstained From Voting To Approve Alabama’s 6-1 Redistricting Plan, But Said He Would Have Voted No And Held Out For A 7-0 Map To “To Maximize The Number Of Republican Seats In Congress,” Which Would Leave Alabama Without A Single Majority-Black District

May 2026: Marques Abstained From Voting On H.B. 1, The Alabama Republican Redistricting Plan, Saying That He Wanted To Avoid The Appearance Of A Conflict Of Interest...

May 2026: Marques Did Not Vote On H.B. 1, “Elections; Special Primary Election For Redistricting Certain Congressional Districts Authorized In Certain Circumstances.” In May 2026, Marques did not vote on H.B. 1, “Elections; special primary election for redistricting certain Congressional districts authorized in certain circumstances.” The motion passed by a vote of 75-29-1. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B.1](#), Roll Call 2, [5/6/26](#)]

- **H.B. 1 Was The Alabama Republican Redistricting Plan.** “The Alabama House of Representatives has passed a bill that Republicans hope to use to reclaim a Congressional seat they lost two years ago. Lawmakers passed HB1 by Rep. Chris Pringle, R-Mobile, which would require the governor to call a special primary this summer if the U.S. Supreme Court lifts an injunction against using a congressional district map the Legislature passed in 2023. Federal courts blocked that map because it did not include a second majority Black or near-majority Black district among Alabama’s seven districts in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.” [AL.com, [5/6/26](#)]

- **H.B. 1 Would Require The Alabama Governor To Call A Special Primary This Summer If The U.S. Supreme Court Lifted An Injunction Against Using A Congressional District Map The Legislature Passed In 2023.** “The Alabama House of Representatives has passed a bill that Republicans hope to use to reclaim a Congressional seat they lost two years ago. Lawmakers passed HB1 by Rep. Chris Pringle, R-Mobile, which would require the governor to call a special primary this summer if the U.S. Supreme Court lifts an injunction against using a congressional district map the Legislature passed in 2023. Federal courts blocked that map because it did not include a second majority Black or near-majority Black district among Alabama’s seven districts in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.” [AL.com, [5/6/26](#)]
- **May 2026: Marques Said He Abstained From Voting On H.B. 1 To Avoid Any Appearance Of A Conflict Of Interest While Running In AL-01.** “A Republican state lawmaker running for Congress in a southern Alabama district that could be reshaped through redistricting said Wednesday he would have voted against the GOP plan because it did not go far enough in eliminating all Democratic seats. State Rep. Rhett Marques, R-Enterprise -- the only member of the Alabama House to abstain from voting on HB1 -- said he would have supported a new congressional map only if it created seven solid Republican districts, rather than the six included in the map the Legislature advanced in 2023. Marques said in a statement to AL.com that he abstained to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest while running in Alabama's 1st Congressional District race this year. He is among the leading Republicans in a field of seven candidates in the May 19 primary. ‘Otherwise, I would have firmly voted NO on this map that fails to maximize the number of Republican seats in Congress,’ Marques said in a statement. ‘Alabamians deserve congressional representation that reflects who we are: a proudly conservative, red state. That means 7-0 map, not 6-1.’” [AL.com, [5/8/26](#)]

...But Marques Said He Would Have Voted Against H.B. 1 Because It “Fails To Maximize The Number Of Republican Seats In Congress” And “Alabamians Deserve Congressional Representation That Reflects Who We Are: A Proudly Conservative, Red State. That Means 7-0 Map, Not 6-1”

May 2026: Marques Said Of H.B.1, “I Would Have Firmly Voted NO On This Map That Fails To Maximize The Number Of Republican Seats In Congress.” “A Republican state lawmaker running for Congress in a southern Alabama district that could be reshaped through redistricting said Wednesday he would have voted against the GOP plan because it did not go far enough in eliminating all Democratic seats. State Rep. Rhett Marques, R-Enterprise -- the only member of the Alabama House to abstain from voting on HB1 -- said he would have supported a new congressional map only if it created seven solid Republican districts, rather than the six included in the map the Legislature advanced in 2023. Marques said in a statement to AL.com that he abstained to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest while running in Alabama's 1st Congressional District race this year. He is among the leading Republicans in a field of seven candidates in the May 19 primary. ‘Otherwise, I would have firmly voted NO on this map that fails to maximize the number of Republican seats in Congress,’ Marques said in a statement. ‘Alabamians deserve congressional representation that reflects who we are: a proudly conservative, red state. That means 7-0 map, not 6-1.’” [AL.com, [5/8/26](#)]

- **Marques On H.B. 1: “Alabamians Deserve Congressional Representation That Reflects Who We Are: A Proudly Conservative, Red State. That Means 7-0 Map, Not 6-1.”** “Alabamians deserve congressional representation that reflects who we are: a proudly conservative, red state. That means a 7-0 map, not 6-1. I’m running to help President Trump pass his agenda, and we need seven strong Alabama Republicans taking our common-sense values to Washington.” [Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [5/6/26](#)]



[Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [5/6/26](#)]

The Guardian: Alabama Congressional Maps Designed To Maximize Republican Gains Eliminated Black-Majority Districts

The Guardian: The Supreme Court's Decision To Allow Alabama To Use A Map That Eliminated A Majority-Black District Was "A Major Blow To Black Voters And A Win For Republicans." "Alabama can use a redrawn congressional map that eliminates one of the state's two majority-Black districts in this year's midterm elections, the US supreme court ruled in a 6-3 decision on Tuesday, another major blow to Black voters and a win for Republicans. The court's emergency ruling is the most consequential decision it has issued since its landmark ruling in late April that struck down a critical provision of the Voting Rights Act. In that case, *Louisiana v Callais*, the court's majority made it nearly impossible to win Voting Rights Act claims, saying that plaintiffs had to prove intentional discrimination. But on 26 May, a three-judge panel said the map Alabama wants to use for this year's midterm was enacted with discriminatory intent." [The Guardian, [6/2/26](#)]

The Guardian: "After The 2020 Census, Alabama Enacted A Congressional Plan That Had Six Republican Districts And One Democratic One. The Democratic District Was The Only Majority-Black District In The State." "Alabama can use a redrawn congressional map that eliminates one of the state's two majority-Black districts in this year's midterm elections, the US supreme court ruled in a 6-3 decision on Tuesday, another major blow to Black voters and a win for Republicans. [...] The court's order is the latest development in a long legal battle over Alabama's congressional map. After the 2020 census, Alabama enacted a congressional plan that had six Republican districts and one Democratic one. The Democratic district was the only majority-Black district in the state. Black voters sued the state over the map, saying the plan violated the Voting Rights Act and unlawfully diluted the influence of Black voters. A three-judge panel agreed with that argument and ordered the state to produce a new map 'to include two districts in which Black voters either comprise a voting-age majority or something quite close to it'. In a 5-4 decision in 2023, the supreme court upheld the court's decision." [The Guardian, [6/2/26](#)]

In The 2024 Election, Both Majority-Black Districts In Alabama Elected Black Democrats. "When Alabama Republicans went to redraw the map in 2023, they passed a plan that did not comply with the court's order. The map they sought to implement again only had one majority-Black district. The court blocked that map, saying it was drawn with discriminatory intent, and appointed a special master to draw a new congressional plan. That plan, which had two majority-Black districts, was used in the 2024 election. Both districts elected Black Democrats. After the supreme court's decision in *Callais*, Alabama took the extraordinary step of moving its fast-approaching primaries and sought to again implement the 2023 map. The three-judge panel again blocked that map on 26 May, saying: 'We cannot see our way clear to requiring Alabamians to cast their votes in the 2026 elections

under a districting plan tainted by intentional race-based discrimination.” [The Guardian, [6/2/26](#)]

Days Later, Marques Claimed His Abstention Was “Stand[ing] With President Trump For A 7-0 Republican Map”

May 2026: Marques On His Decision To Abstain From Voting On New Congressional Maps: “I Was The Only Member Of The Legislature With The Guts To Stand With President Trump For A 7-0 Republican Map And Actually Vote That Way.” “McKee began his District 2 candidacy by sharply criticizing Marques for abstaining during last week's special legislative session on redistricting. Marques has said he abstained to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest while running for Congress. ‘I'm not going to allow a weak-kneed (Republican in name only) RINO to go up to D.C. when we need strong people willing to stand with Donald Trump,’ McKee said. ‘This was an easy vote. If he cannot handle a redistricting vote, he sure cannot handle the woke mob.’ Marques countered that had he voted, he would have voted ‘No’ because the maps did not guarantee a 7-0 Republican sweep of the state's congressional seats. Instead, the maps for the Aug. 11 special election are drawn for a 6-1 GOP advantage. ‘I was the only member of the Legislature with the guts to stand with President Trump for a 7-0 Republican map and actually vote that way,’ Marques said in a statement to AL.com Tuesday.” [AL.com [5/13/26](#)]

Marques Voted To Establish A School Voucher Program In Alabama, Which Took Away Nearly \$300 Million In Taxpayer Dollars From Public Schools To Fund Private Schools And Was Set To Benefit The Wealthiest Alabamians Beginning In The 2027-2028 School Year

2024: Marques Voted For H.B. 129, A Bill Establishing A School “Voucher-Like Program,” Providing Families Up To \$7,000 On Private School Tuition And Up To \$4,000 On Homeschooling Expenses

2024: Marques Voted For H.B. 129, The CHOOSE Act, To Establish A “Voucher-Like Program” Allowing Families To Use State Tax Dollars To Pay For Educational Expenses, Including Private School Tuition

February 2024: Marques Voted For H.B. 129, “Creating Hope And Opportunity For Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act Of 2024, Established To Provide Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) For Parents Of Children To Use In Providing Education Services For Those Children.” In February 2024, Marques voted for H.B. 129, “Creating Hope and Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act of 2024, established to provide education savings accounts (ESAs) for parents of children to use in providing education services for those children.” The motion passed by a vote of 69-34-0. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 129](#), Roll Call 131, [2/27/24](#)]

- **H.B. 129 Would Use State Tax Dollars To Create Education Savings Accounts For Eligible Families To Pay For Education Expenses.** “The Alabama House of Representatives passed the CHOOSE Act Tuesday evening, making education savings accounts, or ESAs, one step closer to reality. The effort, a top priority for state Republicans, would dramatically expand school choice options and would direct public funding toward private school, home school and other educational costs. Lawmakers discussed the bill for four hours before voting 69-34 to approve it. Six Republicans joined the chamber’s 28 Democrats in voting no. HB129 would provide eligible families \$7,000 in state tax dollars per student to pay for the cost of educating their child in a participating school or for other eligible expenses. ESAs would become available at the start of the 2025-26 school year. The state would prioritize support for low-income families and students with disabilities first, and then gradually phase in options for eligible families at the start of the 2027-28 school year.” [AL.com, [2/27/24](#)]
- **Alabama Reflector: H.B. 129 Created A “Voucher-Like Program” That Households Could Use For Certain Educational Expenses, Including Private School Tuition.** “Gov. Kay Ivey Thursday signed HB 129, creating a voucher-like program that households can use for certain educational expenses, including private school tuition. Ivey had made passage of the legislation a priority in her State of the State address last month.

‘It will work for our state and will be effective and sustainable for generations to come,’ said Ivey.” [Alabama Reflector, [3/7/24](#)]

H.B. 129 Provided Families Up To \$7,000 To Spend On Private School Tuition And Up To \$4,000 To Spend On Homeschooling Expenses

The CHOOSE Act Provided Parents Up To \$7,000 To Offset The Cost Of Private Or Public School. “Gov. Kay Ivey signed the Creating Hope & Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act into law Thursday morning. The bill will allow parents to receive up to \$7,000 to offset the cost of private or public school. Parents who homeschool their kids could also get \$2,000 per student, up to \$4,000.” [WVTM 13, [3/7/24](#)]

The CHOOSE Act Provided Parents Who Homeschooled Their Kids With \$2,000 Per Student, Up To \$4,000. “Gov. Kay Ivey signed the Creating Hope & Opportunity for Our Students’ Education (CHOOSE) Act into law Thursday morning. The bill will allow parents to receive up to \$7,000 to offset the cost of private or public school. Parents who homeschool their kids could also get \$2,000 per student, up to \$4,000.” [WVTM 13, [3/7/24](#)]

- **H.B. 129 Was Also Known As The CHOOSE Act.** “The Alabama House of Representatives Tuesday approved a [sic] voucher-like program for schools after a debate lasting over four hours. HB 129, sponsored by Rep. Danny Garrett, R-Trussville and known as the CHOOSE Act, passed the House on a 69-34 vote. Six Republicans joined Democrats in voting against the bill. Supporters of the bill said it would give opportunities to students in struggling schools to find better education. ‘The CHOOSE Act will provide an opportunity for students to learn and thrive in an environment that best meets their needs, which could be a public school,’ said Garrett during the debate Tuesday.” [Alabama Reflector, [2/28/24](#)]

In The 2025-2027 School Years, H.B. 129 Took Nearly \$300 Million Away From Alabama Public Schools

The CHOOSE Act Took Money Out Of The Education Trust Fund, Which Paid For Alabama’s K-12 Schools, Colleges, And Universities

Alabama Reflector: Funding For The CHOOSE Act Came Out Of The Education Trust Fund, “Where Nearly All State Income Tax Goes.” “Almost 37,000 students have applied for the CHOOSE Act, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey announced Tuesday morning, with two-thirds of the applicants not attending the state’s public schools. Funds from the voucher-like program can be used for education-related expenses, including private school tuition. A family can receive up to \$7,000 in state income tax credits per eligible student in a participating school and up to \$2,000 for a student that is homeschooled. The money for the program comes out of the Education Trust Fund, where nearly all state income tax goes. Under the law, legislators must set \$100 million aside for the program starting with the FY 2026 ETF budget, which goes into effect on Oct. 1.” [Alabama Reflector, [4/8/25](#)]

The Education Trust Fund Budget Paid For Public K-12 Schools, Colleges, And Universities. “The Education Trust Fund (ETF) budget funds all state education activities, including K-12 programs and higher education. The primary revenue streams for the ETF budget are income and sales taxes. In recent years, including FY2025, individual income taxes, corporate income taxes, and general sales taxes accounted for over 92% of ETF revenues. For FY2027, the ETF budget enacted through HB238 totals approximately \$10.5 billion, reflecting continued reliance on these revenue sources.” [Alabama Policy Institute, accessed [7/9/26](#)]

In The 2026-2027 School Year, H.B. 129 Took \$174 Million Away From Alabama Public Schools

2026: Governor Ivey Announced The Alabama Department Of Revenue Had Used \$174 Million In Funding For CHOOSE Act Education Savings Accounts For The 2026-2027 School Year. “Education savings accounts created through Alabama’s CHOOSE Act are now fully funded for next school year, Gov. Kay Ivey announced on Wednesday. Families whose applications were approved earlier this year can now access their funding through ClassWallet. The website sent out welcome emails about using the funds on or around July 1. Around 49,000

students, a record high, submitted applications for the 2026-2027 school year, according to the release. ALDOR approved more than 34,000 of those applications. ‘The CHOOSE Act has changed the lives of thousands of Alabama families by enabling them to select schools that best align with their priorities and their child’s specific needs,’ Ivey said in a release. ‘The increase in applications for the upcoming school year shows that the people of Alabama want school choice, and I am proud that we are able to give it to them.’ Alabama Daily News previously reported that fewer students sought CHOOSE Act ESAs for the first time this year, even though the total number of applications grew. The Alabama Department of Revenue received 29,986 new applications for the 2026-27 school year, down from 36,873 last year, when every applicant was new to the program, according to information from the department. For the 2026-27 school year, lawmakers increased CHOOSE Act funding to \$250 million, but by funding 34,000 students, ALDOR only used \$174 million of this earmark. ADN estimated that funding every applicant could have cost between \$208 million and \$275 million, depending on whether students use ESAs for private school, public school or homeschool expenses.” [Alabama Daily News, [7/3/26](#)]

- **The Alabama Legislature Appropriated \$250 Million In Total For CHOOSE Act Funding For The 2026-27 School Year.** “Alabama Daily News previously reported that fewer students sought CHOOSE Act ESAs for the first time this year, even though the total number of applications grew. The Alabama Department of Revenue received 29,986 new applications for the 2026-27 school year, down from 36,873 last year, when every applicant was new to the program, according to information from the department. For the 2026-27 school year, lawmakers increased CHOOSE Act funding to \$250 million, but by funding 34,000 students, ALDOR only used \$174 million of this earmark. ADN estimated that funding every applicant could have cost between \$208 million and \$275 million, depending on whether students use ESAs for private school, public school or homeschool expenses.” [Alabama Daily News, [7/3/26](#)]

In The 2025-2026 School Year, H.B. 129 Took More Than \$124 Million Away From Alabama Public Schools

2025: Governor Ivey Announced The Alabama Department Of Revenue Had Awarded More Than \$124 Million In CHOOSE Act Education Savings Accounts For The 2025-2026 School Year. “Governor Kay Ivey on Tuesday announced that education savings accounts (ESAs) established by the state’s CHOOSE Act program are now fully funded and available for the 2025-2026 school year. Families that were approved through the application process earlier this year can access their funding through the ClassWallet platform to help pay for school tuition, tutoring, educational therapies and other qualifying educational expenses at approved education service providers (ESPs). [...] According to the Alabama Department of Revenue (ALDOR), which administers the program, students from every grade level applied for funding this year, with over 23,000 students receiving approval. This equates to over \$124 million in ESAs supporting school choice for Alabama families and students.” [Office of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, Press Release, [7/1/25](#)]

- **The Alabama Legislature Initially Appropriated \$100 Million For The CHOOSE Act For The 2025-2026 School Year But Increased The Appropriation To \$180 Million In The FY26 Education Trust Fund.** “Families that applied for Alabama’s voucher-like school choice program received their education savings account funds last week, and most will stay in their current school type. Almost 37,000 students applied for the CHOOSE Act, funded by the state’s Education Trust Fund (ETF), which funds public schools, for the 2025-26 school year. Most of the applicants came from students already enrolled in private schools, according to data released in April. Those intending to use the ESA for public and private school, they received a \$7,000 tax credit and those intending to use the funds for home schooling received \$2,000. [...] ‘Our CHOOSE Act education saving accounts are officially ready to support thousands of Alabama families and students with their unique educational needs,’ Gov. Kay Ivey wrote in a statement. ‘In just the first year, our state’s ESA program is incredibly popular, providing opportunity, flexibility and choice when it comes to our children’s education. I am excited to see the program in action this year.’ The Legislature initially appropriated \$100 million for the 2025-26 school year, but increased the appropriation to \$180 million in the FY26 ETF. The total awarded amount for this school year is nearly \$124 million, according to the governor’s office.” [Alabama Reflector, [7/8/25](#)]

Critics Called H.B. 129 “New Segregation” And Opposed Using Public Dollars For Private Schools; Alabama Daily News Reported That CHOOSE Act Applicants Were More Likely To Be White And Less Likely To Be Black Compared To Alabama’s Public School Population

Democratic Lawmakers Questioned Whether H.B. 129 Would Be Used As A Mechanism For “New Segregation,” Saying “They Will Get Paid To Go And Segregate”

House Minority Leader Democrat Bobby Singleton Questioned Whether The CHOOSE Act Would Be A Mechanism For White Families To Leave Public Schools Saying, “This Is The New Segregation. They Will Get Paid To Go And Segregate.” “Ivey called for the passage of the bill in her State of the State address last month and named it a top priority for the session. ‘With the CHOOSE Act, Alabama will now be able to be a leader when it comes to school choice, and I am hopeful this will make a difference in Alabama families. Let me also be clear that my commitment to public education remains unrelenting. At the end of the day, we all want every Alabama student, no matter the zip code, to receive a quality education,’ Gov. Ivey said as she signed the bill at a ceremony Thursday. [...] A lawmaker questioned whether the program would be a mechanism for white families to leave public schools. ‘This is the new segregation. They will get paid to go and segregate,’ said House Minority Leader Bobby Singleton (D-Greensboro). The approved plan is smaller than a \$500 million proposal introduced last year that critics said would drain too much from public education.” [WAKA 8, [3/8/24](#)]

Democratic Rep. Curtis Travis Said He Was Worried H.B. 129 Would Be Using Tax Dollars “To Create Separation,” Saying “It’s Not That History Tends To Repeat Itself, But That People Tend To Repeat History.” “The Alabama House of Representatives Tuesday approved a [sic] voucher-like program for schools after a debate lasting over four hours. HB 129, sponsored by Rep. Danny Garrett, R-Trussville and known as the CHOOSE Act, passed the House on a 69-34 vote. Six Republicans joined Democrats in voting against the bill. [...] Opposition to the bill came mostly from Democrats, who said that the bill would destroy public education in Alabama. Some likened the bill to a form of modern-day segregation. Rep. Curtis Travis, D-Tuscaloosa, cited his experience during desegregation of schools in Hale County in the late 1960’s and early 1970’s, when private schools serving mostly white students were built in response to federal desegregation orders. He said he was worried that the Legislature would be using tax dollars ‘to create separation.’ ‘It’s not that history tends to repeat itself, but that people tend to repeat history,’ Travis said.” [Alabama Reflector, [2/28/24](#)]

Democratic Sen. Rodger Smitherman Opposed The CHOOSE Act For Using Public Dollars For Private Schools, Saying “This Is A Situation Where We Are Looking To Provide Money For People To Take Their Kids Anywhere They Want To Take Them — As If We’ve Taken Care Of All Our Other Problems.” “Ivey called for the passage of the bill in her State of the State address last month and named it a top priority for the session. ‘With the CHOOSE Act, Alabama will now be able to be a leader when it comes to school choice, and I am hopeful this will make a difference in Alabama families. Let me also be clear that my commitment to public education remains unrelenting. At the end of the day, we all want every Alabama student, no matter the zip code, to receive a quality education,’ Gov. Ivey said as she signed the bill at a ceremony Thursday. [...] Opposed lawmakers expressed concern about using public dollars for private schools. ‘This is a situation where we are looking to provide money for people to take their kids anywhere they want to take them — as if we’ve taken care of all our other problems,’ said Sen. Rodger Smitherman, a Democrat from Birmingham. While the program would initially be aimed at low and middle-income families, opposed lawmakers questioned how much they would benefit, noting that private school tuition is often more than the \$7,000 the state would provide.” [WAKA 8, [3/8/24](#)]

Alabama Daily News: CHOOSE Act Applicants Were More Likely To Be White And Less Likely To Be Black Compared To Alabama’s Public School Population

Alabama Daily News: “Compared With Alabama’s Public School Population, CHOOSE Act Applicants Are More Likely To Be White And Less Likely To Be Black.” “The racial breakdown also differs between new and renewal applicants. Black students make up a larger share of new applicants than renewal applicants, while white students make up a larger share of the renewal pool. Compared with Alabama’s public school population, CHOOSE Act applicants are more likely to be white and less likely to be Black. Public school enrollment is about

50% white and 32% Black, while CHOOSE Act applicants are 67% white and 23% Black. Alabama does not collect statewide private school or homeschool enrollment data, making it difficult to know how closely the applicant pool matches students enrolled in either of those school settings.” [Alabama Daily News, [5/26/26](#)]

Alabama Daily News: “Public School Enrollment Is About 50% White And 32% Black, While CHOOSE Act Applicants Are 67% White And 23% Black.” “The racial breakdown also differs between new and renewal applicants. Black students make up a larger share of new applicants than renewal applicants, while white students make up a larger share of the renewal pool. Compared with Alabama’s public school population, CHOOSE Act applicants are more likely to be white and less likely to be Black. Public school enrollment is about 50% white and 32% Black, while CHOOSE Act applicants are 67% white and 23% Black. Alabama does not collect statewide private school or homeschool enrollment data, making it difficult to know how closely the applicant pool matches students enrolled in either of those school settings.” [Alabama Daily News, [5/26/26](#)]

Most Applications For H.B. 129 Were From Students Already In Private Schools Or Were Homeschooled, And Starting In The 2027-2028 School Year, Household Income Caps Would Be Lifted, Benefiting The Wealthiest Alabamian Families

2026: The Majority Of New Applicants For H.B. 129 Already Attended Private School Or Were Homeschooled

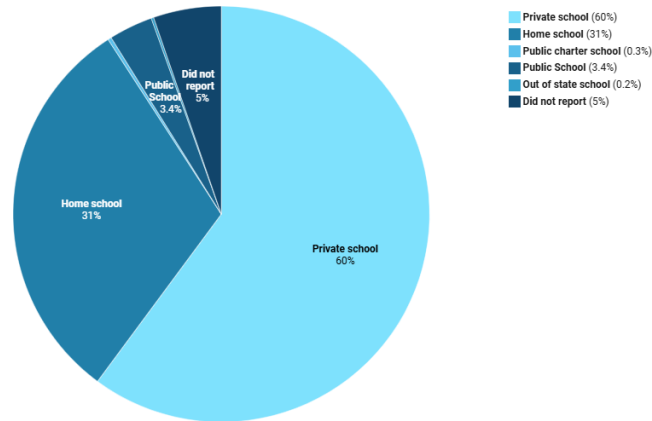
2026: Among New CHOOSE Act Applicants, One-Third Already Attended Private School And 25% Were Homeschooled. “The Alabama Department of Revenue received 29,986 new applications for the 2026-27 school year, down from 36,873 last year, when every applicant was new to the program, according to information from the department. The overall total still rose to 48,927 because 18,941 students applied to renew. That makes the new-application numbers important. They offer a clearer look at fresh interest in the program than the overall total, which now includes families already in the pipeline. The CHOOSE Act provides state-funded education savings accounts that families can use for certain education expenses. Students attending participating public or private schools are eligible for \$7,000 ESAs, while homeschool students are eligible for \$2,000, up to \$4,000 per family. The applicant breakdown matters because applications are only the first step. Looking separately at new and renewal applications gives a better picture of who is trying to enter the program, who is trying to continue and whether the program is reaching families who were not already using private school or homeschool options. Final eligibility, award and activation numbers will show who actually receives and uses the public funds. Among new applicants, one-third currently attend private school, 27% attend public school and 25% are homeschooled.” [Alabama Daily News, [5/26/26](#)]

2026: Alabama Daily News: Only 3.4% Of CHOOSE Act Renewal Applicants Were Enrolled In Public School

2026: Alabama Daily News: Only 3.4% Of CHOOSE Act Renewal Applicants Were Enrolled In Public School. [Alabama Daily News, [5/26/26](#)]

Renewal applicants for CHOOSE Act ESAs

The chart shows the number of students who have requested renewals of CHOOSE Act ESAs



Information provided by request

Chart: Trisha Powell Crain | Alabama Daily News • Source: Alabama Department of Revenue • Get the data • Embed • Download image • Created with Datawrapper

[Alabama Daily News, [5/26/26](#)]

- **2026: Alabama Daily News: Over 60% Of CHOOSE Act Renewal Applicants Were Enrolled In Private School.** “Fewer students are seeking Alabama CHOOSE Act education savings accounts for the first time this year, even though the total number of applications grew. The Alabama Department of Revenue received 29,986 new applications for the 2026-27 school year, down from 36,873 last year, when every applicant was new to the program, according to information from the department. [...] Students seeking to renew are more concentrated in private school and home education programs. Just over 60% of applicants who want to renew are currently enrolled in private school. Nearly 31% of renewals are from students in home education programs. While numbers from ALDOR show that 646 renewal applications are from students who attend public schools, ADN’s most recent numbers did not show any ESA recipients for the 2025-26 school year attended public school. Last year’s categories differed from the new data, making a direct comparison difficult.” [Alabama Daily News, [5/26/26](#)]
- **2026: Alabama Daily News: Nearly 31% Of CHOOSE Act Renewal Applicants Were Homeschooled.** “Fewer students are seeking Alabama CHOOSE Act education savings accounts for the first time this year, even though the total number of applications grew. The Alabama Department of Revenue received 29,986 new applications for the 2026-27 school year, down from 36,873 last year, when every applicant was new to the program, according to information from the department. [...] Students seeking to renew are more concentrated in private school and home education programs. Just over 60% of applicants who want to renew are currently enrolled in private school. Nearly 31% of renewals are from students in home education programs. While numbers from ALDOR show that 646 renewal applications are from students who attend public schools, ADN’s most recent numbers did not show any ESA recipients for the 2025-26 school year attended public school. Last year’s categories differed from the new data, making a direct comparison difficult.” [Alabama Daily News, [5/26/26](#)]

2025: Two-Thirds Of Applicants For The CHOOSE Act Used The Money For Private School Tuition Or Were Homeschooled

2025: Two-Thirds Of Applicants For The CHOOSE Act Were Not Attending Alabama’s Public Schools.

“Almost 37,000 students have applied for the CHOOSE Act, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey announced Tuesday morning, with two-thirds of the applicants not attending the state’s public schools. Funds from the voucher-like program can be used for education-related expenses, including private school tuition. A family can receive up to \$7,000 in state income tax credits per eligible student in a participating school and up to \$2,000 for a student that is homeschooled. The money for the program comes out of the Education Trust Fund, where nearly all state income tax goes. Under the law, legislators must set \$100 million aside for the program starting with the FY 2026 ETF budget, which goes into effect on Oct. 1.” [Alabama Reflector, [4/8/25](#)]

- **2025: 66.4% Of Applicants For The Choose Act Came From Students From Private School Or Were Homeschooled.** “‘The CHOOSE Act, Alabama’s education savings account program, will allow more taxpaying Alabama families the opportunity to choose a school that meets their child’s individual needs,’ Ivey said in a statement. Ivey’s office said the 22,167 applications represented 36,873 students. Of those, 24,506 students (66.4%) come from private school (15,436) or are homeschooled (9,070.) The office said 10,287 (28%) applications were filed for students in public and charter schools. Of the public school applicants, the governor’s office said 9,788 came from traditional public schools and 499 from charter schools.” [Alabama Reflector, [4/8/25](#)]
- **2025: Out Of Nearly 37,000 Applicants, Only 26 Students In Private School Intended To Use CHOOSE Act Funds For Public School.** “Almost 37,000 students applied for the CHOOSE Act, funded by the state’s Education Trust Fund (ETF), which funds public schools, for the 2025-26 school year. Most of the applicants came from students already enrolled in private schools, according to data released in April. Those intending to use the ESA for public and private school, they received a \$7,000 tax credit and those intending to use the funds for home schooling received \$2,000. Of the 37,000 applicants, about 24,000 (64%) were awarded ESAs, according to data from the Alabama Department of Revenue (ALDOR). Nearly 14,000 (60%) of those who received CHOOSE Act money plan to enroll in private school for the 2025-26 school year. Of those 14,000, about 10,000 (71%) were already attending a private school. Only 26 of the students in private school intend to use the ESA for public school, according to the ALDOR’s data.” [Alabama Reflector, [7/8/25](#)]
- **2025: Alabama Reflector Headline: “Most Choose Act Recipients Will Stay In The Same Type Of School With Voucher-Like Credit.”** [Alabama Reflector, [7/8/25](#)]
- **2025: Alabama Reflector Headline: “CHOOSE Act Applications Close; Most Applicants Come From Nonpublic Schools.”** [Alabama Reflector, [4/8/25](#)]

Governor Ivey Announced Starting In The 2027-2028 School Year, Household Income Limits Requirements For The CHOOSE Act Would Be Removed, Allowing The Wealthiest Alabamians Using Taxpayer Dollars To Pay For Their Children’s Private School Tuition

Governor Ivey Announced Starting In The 2027-2028 School Year, Household Income Limits Requirements For The CHOOSE Act Would Be Removed. “Governor Kay Ivey on Wednesday announced education savings accounts (ESAs) established by the state’s CHOOSE Act program are now fully funded and available for the 2026-2027 academic year. Families that were approved through the application process earlier this year can access their funding through the ClassWallet platform to help pay for school tuition, tutoring, educational therapies and other qualifying educational expenses at approved education service providers (ESPs). [...] For information, visit www.chooseact.alabama.gov, which has program information such as a Parent Guide, a Program FAQ and a list of approved education service providers. The application process for the 2027-2028 academic year will begin in January 2027 and will be available to all Alabama families, regardless of household income.” [Office of Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, Press Release, [7/1/26](#)]

- **For The 2025-2026 School Years, CHOOSE Act Education Savings Accounts Were Available To Families With An Adjusted Gross Income Not Exceeding 300% Of The Federal Poverty Level For The Preceding Tax Year.** “The CHOOSE Act, signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey on March 7, 2024, makes refundable income tax credits called education savings accounts (ESAs), available to support the success of every K-12 student in Alabama. The law requires the Alabama Department of Revenue to establish a framework and funding for ESAs, which may be used by eligible families to cover tuition, fees, and other qualified education expenses at approved education service providers (ESPs) in Alabama. [...] Year 1: Academic Year 2025-2026, the credits will be awarded as follows: For participating students whose family have an adjusted gross income (AGI) not exceeding 300 percent of the federal poverty level for the preceding tax year: The first 500 ESAs awarded for participating students with special-needs. Second priority goes to participating students who are dependents of active-duty service members enrolled in or assigned to a priority school as defined in Section 16-6D-4. Remaining awarded for participating students based on the family’s AGI as a percentage of the federal poverty level for the preceding tax year.” [Alabama Department of Revenue, The

CHOOSE Act, accessed [7/30/26](#)]

- **For The 2026-2027 School Years, CHOOSE Act Education Savings Accounts Were Available To Families With An Adjusted Gross Income Not Exceeding 300% Of The Federal Poverty Level For The Preceding Tax Year.** “The CHOOSE Act, signed into law by Gov. Kay Ivey on March 7, 2024, makes refundable income tax credits called education savings accounts (ESAs), available to support the success of every K-12 student in Alabama. The law requires the Alabama Department of Revenue to establish a framework and funding for ESAs, which may be used by eligible families to cover tuition, fees, and other qualified education expenses at approved education service providers (ESPs) in Alabama. [...] Year 2: Academic Year 2026-2027, the credits will be awarded as follows: For participating students whose family have an AGI not exceeding 300 percent of the federal poverty level for the preceding tax year: The first 500 ESAs awarded for participating students with special-needs. Second priority goes to participating students previously awarded in the prior academic year. Next priority goes to participating students who are dependents of active-duty service members enrolled in or assigned to a priority school as defined in Section 16-6D-4. Remaining awarded for participating students based on the family’s AGI as a percentage of the federal poverty level for the preceding tax year.” [Alabama Department of Revenue, The CHOOSE Act, accessed [7/30/26](#)]
- **2026: 300% Of The Federal Poverty Level For A Family Of Four Was Equivalent To Earning \$99,000 Per Year.** According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2026 federal poverty guidelines stipulated that 300% of the federal poverty level for a family of four was equal to earning \$99,000 per year. [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, accessed [7/30/26](#)]

Marques Voted To Ban Public Funding For DEI Programs, Shutting Down Resources For Black Students In The University Of Alabama System, And To Allow State Agencies To Fire Employees Who Discussed So-Called “Divisive Concepts” Such As Racism and Sexism

2024: Marques Voted For S.B. 129, A Bill To Ban Public Funding For Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Programs In Public Universities And Allow State Agencies To Fire Employees Who Discussed So-Called “Divisive Concepts” Such As Racism and Sexism

March 2024: Marques Voted For S.B. 129, “Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion; Certain Public Entities Prohibited From Maintaining Office That Promotes Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Programs; Certain Programs Related To Divisive Concepts Or Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion, Prohibited; Promotion And Endorsement Of Certain Divisive Concepts In Certain Public Settings Prohibited; Exceptions Provided; Public Institution Of Higher Education, Required To Designate Multioccupancy Restrooms Based On Biological Sex.” In March 2024, Marques voted for S.B. 129, “Diversity, equity, and inclusion; certain public entities prohibited from maintaining office that promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion programs; certain programs related to divisive concepts or diversity, equity, and inclusion, prohibited; promotion and endorsement of certain divisive concepts in certain public settings prohibited; exceptions provided; public institution of higher education, required to designate multioccupancy restrooms based on biological sex.” The motion passed 75-28-0. [Alabama State Legislature, S.B. 129, Roll Call 222, [3/7/24](#)]

- **S.B. 129 Would Ban Public Funding For Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion Programs In Public Universities.** “Alabama officials have filed motions seeking to dismiss a lawsuit challenging SB 129, a law that limits diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in public universities and the teaching of so-called ‘divisive concepts.’ The Alabama Attorney General’s office and members of the University of Alabama (UA) Board of Trustees argue that the University of Alabama professors and University of Alabama Birmingham students suing to overturn the law lack standing and that their claims fail to establish any constitutional violations.” [Alabama Reflector, [3/26/25](#)]
- **S.B. 129 Prohibited Discussion Of So-Called “Divisive Concepts” Including Discussions Around Conscious Or Subconscious Racism And Sexism.** “SB129 comes amid a nationwide push from conservative

lawmakers to limit the rights of transgender and LGBTQ individuals and ban DEI programs after the Supreme Court overturned affirmative action. The legislation prohibits local public school boards and universities from maintaining an office or department that promotes DEI. It also bars students, employees, and contractors from being required to attend any DEI ‘training, orientation, or course work that advocates or requires assent to a divisive concept.’ The legislation outlines eight ‘divisive concepts’ including discussions around conscious or subconscious racism and sexism, and whether ‘meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist’ that are now prohibited.” [CNN, [3/19/24](#)]

- **S.B. 129 Empowered State Agencies Including Local Boards Of Education And Public Universities To “Discipline Or Terminate The Employment Of Any Employee Or Contractor Who Knowingly Violates This Act.”** “SB129 comes amid a nationwide push from conservative lawmakers to limit the rights of transgender and LGBTQ individuals and ban DEI programs after the Supreme Court overturned affirmative action. The legislation prohibits local public school boards and universities from maintaining an office or department that promotes DEI. It also bars students, employees, and contractors from being required to attend any DEI ‘training, orientation, or course work that advocates or requires assent to a divisive concept.’ [...] It also empowers state agencies – including local boards of education and public universities – to ‘discipline or terminate the employment of any employee or contractor who knowingly violates this act.’” [CNN, [3/19/24](#)]

The University Of Alabama System Shut Down Its DEI Offices And Revoked Funding For Black Student Organizations After S.B. 129 Passed, Leaving Black Students With “No Place To Go” After The Black Student Union Office Was Closed To Comply With The Law

July 2024: The University Of Alabama System And Jacksonville State University Closed Their DEI Offices To Comply With S.B. 129

July 2024: The University Of Alabama In Tuscaloosa, The University Of Alabama At Birmingham, And The University Of Alabama In Huntsville Closed Its DEI Offices To Comply With The State’s New Anti-DEI Law. “The three University of Alabama System campuses on Tuesday shuttered diversity, equity and inclusion offices— and opened new offices — to comply with a new Republican-backed law attempting to ban the programs on public college campuses in the state. The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, along with the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, issued statements announcing the closure of diversity, equity and inclusion offices of each campus and the creation of a new university division or office. Each university said the change was made to comply with the new state law. The Alabama law is part of a wave of proposals from Republican lawmakers across the country taking aim at diversity, equity and inclusion programs — also known as DEI — on college campuses. The law, which takes effect Oct. 1, prohibits public universities, K-12 school systems and state agencies in Alabama from maintaining DEI offices. However, it’s unclear how much the law will impact the outreach and support functions previously performed by DEI offices.” [Associated Press, [7/23/24](#)]

July 2024: Jacksonville State University Closed Its Office Of Diversity And Inclusion To Comply With S.B. 129 And Did Not Announce Plans For A Replacement Office. “The University of Alabama System announced Tuesday it is shuttering its diversity, equity and inclusion programs and launching new offices to comply with Senate Bill 129, which banned state-funded DEI offices at educational institutions. [...] Other public universities have closed their DEI offices in preparation for the law to take effect. Jacksonville State University announced in May that its Office of Diversity and Inclusion would close May 31. Those working in the office were offered and accepted jobs across campus, according to the announcement from JSU President Don Killingsworth. ‘This decision was not made lightly but is necessary to ensure compliance with the new legal framework imposed by Act 2024-34,’ Killingsworth wrote. Unlike the University of Alabama System, JSU did not announce plans for a replacement office.” [Alabama Daily News, [7/24/24](#)]

August 2024: After S.B. 129 Passed, The University Of Alabama Shut Down The Black Student Union's Office In The Student Center And The University's Black Student Association Was Forced To Seek Program Funding From Outside Groups

August 2024: The University Of Alabama In Tuscaloosa Shut Down The Black Student Union's Office In The Student Center To Comply With The State's New Anti-DEI Law. “There was one major deciding factor in Cierra Gilliam’s decision about where to go to college. When she toured the University of Alabama’s flagship campus in Tuscaloosa, her guide took her to the Black Student Union office on the first floor of the student center. Gilliam said there were Black students there offering resources for trips to and from the airport, as well as hair salons in Tuscaloosa that could style Black hair, and insights about what it was like to live at a predominantly white institution. Gilliam said that the Black Student Union’s visible presence on campus was one of the main reasons that her parents let her go to school a nine-hour drive away in an unfamiliar state. Last week, however, at the outset of her senior year, the Black Student Union announced that the group would no longer have a designated place on campus, in compliance with recent statewide legislation that prohibits public universities and state agencies from allocating resources to diversity equity and inclusion programs — often referred to as DEI.” [Associated Press, [8/30/24](#)]

- **A Black Student At The University Of Alabama Said “It Feels Terrible, Like There Is No Place To Go” After The Black Student Union’s Office On Campus Shut Down.** “There was one major deciding factor in Cierra Gilliam’s decision about where to go to college. When she toured the University of Alabama’s flagship campus in Tuscaloosa, her guide took her to the Black Student Union office on the first floor of the student center. Gilliam said there were Black students there offering resources for trips to and from the airport, as well as hair salons in Tuscaloosa that could style Black hair, and insights about what it was like to live at a predominantly white institution. Gilliam said that the Black Student Union’s visible presence on campus was one of the main reasons that her parents let her go to school a nine-hour drive away in an unfamiliar state. Last week, however, at the outset of her senior year, the Black Student Union announced that the group would no longer have a designated place on campus, in compliance with recent statewide legislation that prohibits public universities and state agencies from allocating resources to diversity equity and inclusion programs — often referred to as DEI. ‘It feels terrible, like there is no place to go,’ Gilliam said. ‘They ripped all the signage and things down, and there is nothing left.’” [Associated Press, [8/30/24](#)]

August 2024: After The Gov. Ivey Signed A Ban On State Funding For DEI Programs In Public Universities, The University Of Alabama's Black Student Association Sought Program Funding From Outside Groups. “Under the bill signed by Gov. Kay Ivey in March, DEI is defined as classes, training, programs and events where attendance is based on a person’s race, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation. [...] At the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, a queer resource center called Safe Zone was also shuttered. [...] Both the Queer Student Association and the Black Student Union have been forced to scramble for other funding for programming, especially as the groups try to help freshman get oriented, according to their respective presidents. Queer Student Association president Schottelkotte said that the only silver lining to the bill has been the outpouring of support from advocacy groups like the local chapter of the Human Rights Council and Central Alabama Pride. At least eight outside groups have agreed to sponsor the annual Shantay UA party, an event that celebrates the school’s queer students, according to an Instagram post made by the Queer Student Association. [...] The president of the Black Student Union, Jordan Stokes, said that many members of the Black Alumni Association have reached out to offer financial and organizational support after the school revoked all funding and resources.” [Associated Press, [8/30/24](#)]

University Of Alabama System Students And Professors Said S.B. 129 Had “Detrimental Effects” On Higher Education In Alabama, Describing “A Climate Of Fear On Campus”; A Student Alleged Her Stipend Was Revoked As A Result Of The Anti-DEI Law
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A University Of Alabama Student Said She “Witnessed The Detrimental Effects” Of S.B. 129 And Called It “Antithetical To The Very Essence Of What Higher Education Should Mean In Our State And Country.” “Earlier this year, a group of Alabama students and educators filed Simon v. Ivey, the federal lawsuit challenging

SB 129 and followed with a motion for preliminary injunction to urgently address the law's widespread harms. The plaintiffs in the case include Alabama public university faculty and students, as well as the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP, and are represented by the Legal Defense Fund (LDF) and the ACLU of Alabama. [...] 'As a University of Alabama student, even with this disappointment, I will continue to fight for students, professors, and campus communities as a whole,' said Ja'Kobe Bibbs, a member of the Alabama NAACP, which is a plaintiff in the case. 'I've witnessed the detrimental effects of this legislation on our student body and it can and should not stand. SB 129 is antithetical to the very essence of what higher education should mean in our state and country—a place where people across identities and walks of life can come to learn, build community, and grow together.'" [Legal Defense Fund, [8/14/25](#)]

A University Of Alabama Professor Said S.B. 129 “Undermine[d] Academic Freedom And The Integrity Of Higher Education In Alabama” And “Created A Climate Of Fear On Campus That Narrows What Students Can Learn And What Educators Can Teach.” “The lawsuit was first filed in January by students at The University of Alabama Birmingham; three professors working at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and the Alabama Chapter of the NAACP. The plaintiffs alleged that SB 129 stifled academic instruction and violated the First and Fourteenth Amendments. ‘This appeal is a necessary next step because SB 129 continues to undermine academic freedom and the integrity of higher education in Alabama,’ Dana Patton, an Alabama professor and plaintiff, said in a statement Monday. ‘This law has created a climate of fear on campus that narrows what students can learn and what educators can teach. Through this appeal, we urge the court to affirm our responsibility and right, as dedicated educators, to provide students with a truthful, comprehensive education.’” [Alabama Reflector, [12/19/25](#)]

A University Of Alabama Birmingham Student Said Of S.B. 129’s Effects, “I Have Watched Our Campus Change Overnight, As Students Are Afraid To Speak, Opportunities For Thoughtful Engagement Have Disappeared, And Students’ Shared Sense Of Belonging Has Eroded.” “A group of students and professors have appealed a federal court ruling allowing an Alabama’s anti-diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) law to go into effect. The appeal, filed Dec. 15 in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, came after U.S. District Judge R. David Proctor denied a preliminary injunction in August to prevent the state from implementing SB 129, which bans public funding for DEI programs as well as the public affirmation of ‘divisive concepts.’[...] Sydney Testman, a student at UAB and plaintiff in the case said in the same statement the bill being implemented has a chilling effect on the campus’ culture. ‘As a senior, I have watched our campus change overnight, as students are afraid to speak, opportunities for thoughtful engagement have disappeared, and students’ shared sense of belonging has eroded,’ the statement said. Testman, who formerly served as the finance coordinator for UAB’s Social Justice Advocacy Council (SJAC), alleges in the appeal that because of the university’s interpretation of SB 129 she was unable to maintain a \$600 stipend she received for work she did with her student organization and her position as finance coordinator for SJAC.” [Alabama Reflector, [12/19/25](#)]

- **A University Of Alabama Birmingham Student Alleged The University Revoked A \$600 Stipend For Work She Did For The University’s Social Justice Advocacy Council Because Of The University’s Interpretation Of S.B. 129.** “A group of students and professors have appealed a federal court ruling allowing an Alabama’s anti-diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) law to go into effect. The appeal, filed Dec. 15 in the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, came after U.S. District Judge R. David Proctor denied a preliminary injunction in August to prevent the state from implementing SB 129, which bans public funding for DEI programs as well as the public affirmation of ‘divisive concepts.’[...] Sydney Testman, a student at UAB and plaintiff in the case said in the same statement the bill being implemented has a chilling effect on the campus’ culture. ‘As a senior, I have watched our campus change overnight, as students are afraid to speak, opportunities for thoughtful engagement have disappeared, and students’ shared sense of belonging has eroded,’ the statement said. Testman, who formerly served as the finance coordinator for UAB’s Social Justice Advocacy Council (SJAC), alleges in the appeal that because of the university’s interpretation of SB 129 she was unable to maintain a \$600 stipend she received for work she did with her student organization and her position as finance coordinator for SJAC.” [Alabama Reflector, [12/19/25](#)]

ACLU Of Alabama Strongly Condemned S.B. 129, Calling It A “Censorship Bill” That “Curtails An Education [...] On Racial Violence And The Historic Efforts To Gain Civil Rights”

ACLU Of Alabama Called S.B. 129, A “Censorship Bill” That Impeded Alabama Students And Educators’ “Ability To Learn, Teach, And Engage In Public University Classes And Programs Related To Diverse Viewpoints And Topics.” “A group of Alabama students and educators in higher education filed a federal lawsuit challenging Senate Bill 129 (SB129) – a censorship bill that impedes their ability to learn, teach, and engage in public university classes and programs related to diverse viewpoints and topics. These topics include certain matters concerning race, racism, sexism, homophobia, structural inequality, and social justice that are disfavored by state elected officials who have no expertise in higher education. SB129, which went into effect in October 2024, further targets and severely restricts programs, offices, and events related to the state’s unusual and unilateral definition of ‘diversity, equity, and inclusion’ (‘DEI’), which is not based on the common understanding of that term.” [ACLU of Alabama, [1/14/25](#)]

ACLU Of Alabama: “Since SB129’s Passage, Black Professors And Students, LGBTQIA Students, And Other Students Of Color Have Experienced Numerous Harms — Including Censorship Of Certain Teachings And Discussions Involving Race-Based And Sex-Based Inequalities, Discriminatory Restrictions On University Funding For Student Organizations, And Removal Of Inclusive Campus Spaces.” “Since SB129’s passage, Black professors and students, LGBTQIA students, and other students of color have experienced numerous harms — including censorship of certain teachings and discussions involving race-based and sex-based inequalities, discriminatory restrictions on university funding for student organizations, and removal of inclusive campus spaces that had served Black and LGBTQIA university students for several years. The plaintiffs in the case include Alabama public university faculty and students, as well as the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP, and are represented by the Legal Defense Fund (LDF), ACLU of Alabama, and Arnold & Porter.” [ACLU of Alabama, [1/14/25](#)]

ACLU Of Alabama Said Of S.B. 129, “This Bill Is Intended To Have A Chilling Effect On Discourse Regarding Race, Class, Sexuality, And National Origin, And Seeks To Characterize These Discussions And Accurate Teachings, Assignments, And Trainings That Also Supplement Them As ‘Divisive.’” “Our Position: We oppose Senate Bill 129. This bill is intended to have a chilling effect on discourse regarding race, class, sexuality, and national origin, and seeks to characterize these discussions and accurate teachings, assignments, and trainings that also supplement them as ‘divisive.’ SB129 disrupts the work of student, staff, and faculty organizations at higher education institutions that rely on public funding from their university to develop DEI or culturally based programming. This is not only a form of classroom censorship, it’s an anti-truth bill which curtails an education on systemic inequities, racial violence, and the historic efforts to gain civil rights and civil liberties for marginalized communities throughout our nation’s history. The First Amendment protects the right to share ideas, including the right of listeners to receive information and knowledge. We must protect this right, including educators and students’ rights to talk and learn about race and gender in schools.” [ACLU of Alabama, [2/27/24](#)]

ACLU Of Alabama Said Of S.B. 129, “This Is Not Only A Form Of Classroom Censorship, It’s An Anti-Truth Bill Which Curtails An Education On Systemic Inequities, Racial Violence, And The Historic Efforts To Gain Civil Rights And Civil Liberties For Marginalized Communities Throughout Our Nation’s History.” “Our Position: We oppose Senate Bill 129. This bill is intended to have a chilling effect on discourse regarding race, class, sexuality, and national origin, and seeks to characterize these discussions and accurate teachings, assignments, and trainings that also supplement them as ‘divisive.’ SB129 disrupts the work of student, staff, and faculty organizations at higher education institutions that rely on public funding from their university to develop DEI or culturally based programming. This is not only a form of classroom censorship, it’s an anti-truth bill which curtails an education on systemic inequities, racial violence, and the historic efforts to gain civil rights and civil liberties for marginalized communities throughout our nation’s history. The First Amendment protects the right to share ideas, including the right of listeners to receive information and knowledge. We must protect this right, including educators and students’ rights to talk and learn about race and gender in schools.” [ACLU of Alabama, [2/27/24](#)]

The Alabama NAACP Alleged S.B. 129 Law Violated The Equal Protection Clause Of The Fourteenth Amendment And First Amendment By Discriminating Against Minority Students And Faculty

The Alabama NAACP And Other Plaintiffs In A Lawsuit Against S.B. 129 Alleged The Law Violated The Equal Protection Clause Of The Fourteenth Amendment And First Amendment. “Alabama officials have filed motions seeking to dismiss a lawsuit challenging SB 129, a law that limits diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in public universities and the teaching of so-called ‘divisive concepts.’ The Alabama Attorney General’s office and members of the University of Alabama (UA) Board of Trustees argue that the University of Alabama professors and University of Alabama Birmingham students suing to overturn the law lack standing and that their claims fail to establish any constitutional violations. The plaintiffs, who also include the Alabama NAACP, allege that SB 129, sponsored by Sen. Will Barfoot, R-Pike Road, violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the First Amendment. Plaintiffs argue that the law discriminates against minority students and faculty by restricting funding for student groups and eliminating campus spaces designed to support minority students.” [Alabama Reflector, [3/26/25](#)]

The Alabama NAACP And Other Plaintiffs In A Lawsuit Against S.B. 129 Alleged The Law Discriminated Against Minority Students And Faculty By Restricting Funding For Student Groups And Eliminating Campus Spaces Designed To Support Minority Students. “Alabama officials have filed motions seeking to dismiss a lawsuit challenging SB 129, a law that limits diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in public universities and the teaching of so-called ‘divisive concepts.’ The Alabama Attorney General’s office and members of the University of Alabama (UA) Board of Trustees argue that the University of Alabama professors and University of Alabama Birmingham students suing to overturn the law lack standing and that their claims fail to establish any constitutional violations. The plaintiffs, who also include the Alabama NAACP, allege that SB 129, sponsored by Sen. Will Barfoot, R-Pike Road, violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and the First Amendment. Plaintiffs argue that the law discriminates against minority students and faculty by restricting funding for student groups and eliminating campus spaces designed to support minority students.” [Alabama Reflector, [3/26/25](#)]

Marques Abstained From Voting On A Bipartisan Animal Welfare Statute Requiring Dog Owners To Provide Dogs With Access To Food, Shelter, And Clean Water, And Later Refused To Publicly Respond To A Supporter Who Asked Him About His Abstention On The Bill

April 2026: Marques Abstained From Voting On Beau’s Law, A Bipartisan Animal Welfare Statute That Required Dog Owners To Provide Dogs With Access To Food, Shelter, And Clean Water And Banned The Use Of Inhumane Choke Collars

April 2026: Marques Did Not Vote On S.B. 361, “Dogs; Tethering And Confinement Requirements Provided; Persons And Activities Exempted; Criminal Penalties For, Animal Control Officer Enforcement Of, Violations Established.” In April 2026, Marques did not vote on S.B. 361, “Dogs; tethering and confinement requirements provided; persons and activities exempted; criminal penalties for, animal control officer enforcement of, violations established.” The motion passed by a vote of 69-23-9. [Alabama State Legislature, [S.B. 361](#), Roll Call 1280, [4/8/26](#)]

- **S.B. 361 Was Known As Beau’s Law.** “A bill working its way through the Alabama House would establish statewide requirements for dog owners who keep their pets outdoors. Senate Bill 361, known as Beau’s Law, would require dog owners to provide adequate shelter, access to clean water, food, and care, and humane tethering practices. The Greater Birmingham Humane Society said the bill is the most significant effort to establish care standards since 2000. Lawmakers are scheduled to discuss the bill in the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee on Wednesday.” [WBRC, [3/18/26](#)]

- **WBRC: Beau’s Law Set Clear Minimum Standards Pet Owners Must Follow If They Kept Their Dog Outdoors, Including Requiring Dog Owners “To Provide Adequate Shelter, Access To Clean Water, Food, And Care, And Humane Tethering Practices.”** “A bill working its way through the Alabama House would establish statewide requirements for dog owners who keep their pets outdoors. Senate Bill 361, known as Beau’s Law, would require dog owners to provide adequate shelter, access to clean water, food, and care, and humane tethering practices. The Greater Birmingham Humane Society said the bill is the most significant effort to establish care standards since 2000. Lawmakers are scheduled to discuss the bill in the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee on Wednesday.” [WBRC, [3/18/26](#)]
- **Beau’s Law Criminalized Outdoor Tethering Using Chains Or Inhumane Collars Like Choke Or Pinch Collars.** “A new Alabama law is reshaping how dogs kept outdoors must be cared for. The new law, known as ‘Beau’s Law,’ sets clear minimum standards pet owners must follow if they wish to keep their dog outdoors. [...] The law criminalizes outdoor tethering using chains or inhumane collars like choke or pinch collars. It also requires adequate access to clean water and food. Dogs kept outdoors must also have access to a safe shelter with a proper roof to keep them dry, three structured walls and an actual floor for the dog to lie on. Beau’s Law is the first pet protection law passed in Alabama in 26 years.” [WKRG, [4/20/26](#)]
- **Beau’s Law Was A Bipartisan Effort Led By Republican And Democratic State Senators.** “Dozens of animal rights advocates gathered outside the Alabama State House Tuesday to push Senate Bill 361, or ‘Beau’s Law,’ to the House floor for a vote. If passed, the legislation would limit how and when a dog can be tethered or confined and ensure the animal’s basic needs are met such as food or water. [...] The legislation is a bipartisan effort led by Sen. Garlan Gudger, R-Cullman, and Rep. Phillip Ensler, D-Montgomery. ‘Democrat, Republican, Independent have been concerned about this and have said we need to have basic humane standards, so that’s why I’m here, that’s why I’m supporting it,’ Ensler said. ‘My wife has rescued dogs for the last 24 years. It means something to us because it touches your soul when you find an animal that needs love, food, water, and you rescue that,’ Gudger explained.” [WFSA, [4/7/26](#)]
- **Beau’s Law Was The First Pet Protection Law Passed In Alabama In 26 Years.** “A new Alabama law is reshaping how dogs kept outdoors must be cared for. The new law, known as ‘Beau’s Law,’ sets clear minimum standards pet owners must follow if they wish to keep their dog outdoors. [...] The law criminalizes outdoor tethering using chains or inhumane collars like choke or pinch collars. It also requires adequate access to clean water and food. Dogs kept outdoors must also have access to a safe shelter with a proper roof to keep them dry, three structured walls and an actual floor for the dog to lie on. Beau’s Law is the first pet protection law passed in Alabama in 26 years.” [WKRG, [4/20/26](#)]

April 2026: Marques Refused To Publicly Respond To A Supporter Who Questioned His Decision To Abstain From The Voting On Beau’s Law

April 2026: When A Supporter Asked Marques Why He Abstained From Voting For Beau’s Law, Marques Declined To Comment Publicly. FACEBOOK USER: “Rhett ... you know that I have always supported you in your business and your politics, but I have asked many times now for clarification on why you abstained from voting for Beau’s Law, and you have yet to answer me. I know that I am not the only one who has asked you, so please explain your abstinence from this vote. I, we, have a right to know in return for our support.” MARQUES: “Wendy, it was great speaking with you—thank you for taking the time to discuss this with me.” [Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [4/22/26](#)]



[Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [4/22/26](#)]

Marques Showed Disdain For Alabamians, Suggesting They “Do Not Understand How Local Bills Work” And Did Not Have “That Much Disposable Income” Compared To Floridians

2026: Marques Suggested Alabamians Did Not Understand The State Legislative Process, Saying “These People Do Not Understand How Local Bills Work”

VIDEO: 2026: When Asked About His Votes To Raise Taxes At A Candidate Forum, Marques Suggested Alabamians Did Not Understand The State Legislative Process, Saying “These People Do Not Understand How Local Bills Work.” MODERATOR: “Mr. Marques, did you raise, did you vote to raise taxes 22 times in Alabama?” MARQUES: “You would have to show me the bills.” MODERATOR: “Is that right?” MCKEE: “I mean, don’t put me on the gun, but he has a record that he can answer for. I’m not going to, I’m not.” MODERATOR: “I’ll send you the screenshot. It’s circulating 22 times you voted to raise taxes.” MARQUES: “Those are local bills for local other entities, not us.” MODERATOR: Okay. Well, and then 21.” MARQUES: “These people do not understand how local bills work, David. And a lot of them do. Some of them do. But Judge Judge Thompson for instance, she understands that when you vote in a local for a local bill in Chambers County or Cherokee County, those are, those people want that bill to be passed. Typically local bills passed by 14 and most people abstain. So, if that’s what you’re referring to, no, I have not. I have not voted for 22 bills that affect the citizens of this county.” MODERATOR: “But they affect citizens though.” MARQUES: “Not of this county.” [Joshua Mckee Show – Official Channel via YouTube, 0:00, [7/16/26](#)] (VIDEO)

- **VIDEO: 2026: After Saying “These People Do Not Understand How Local Bills Work,” About A Room Of Republican Women Voters In Coffee County, Marques Added, “A Lot Of Them Do. Some Of Them Do.”** MODERATOR: “Mr. Marques, did you raise, did you vote to raise taxes 22 times in Alabama?” MARQUES: “You would have to show me the bills.” MODERATOR: “Is that right?” MCKEE: “I mean, don’t put me on the gun, but he has a record that he can answer for. I’m not going to, I’m not.” MODERATOR: “I’ll send you the screenshot. It’s circulating 22 times you voted to raise taxes.” MARQUES: “Those are local bills for local other entities, not us.” MODERATOR: Okay. Well, and then 21.” MARQUES: “These people do not understand how local bills work, David. And a lot of them do. Some of them do. But Judge Judge Thompson for instance, she understands that when you vote in a local for a local bill in Chambers County or Cherokee County, those are, those people want that bill to be passed. Typically local bills passed by 14 and most people abstain. So, if that’s what you’re referring to, no, I have not. I have not voted for 22 bills that affect the citizens of this county.” MODERATOR: “But they affect citizens though.” MARQUES: “Not of this county.” [Joshua Mckee Show – Official Channel via YouTube, 0:00, [7/16/26](#)] (VIDEO)

2021: Marques Suggested A State-Run Lottery Would Not Generate “Two To Three Hundred Million” Because “Alabama Typically Does Not Have That Much Disposable Income” Compared To Florida

VIDEO: 2021: Marques On Allowing A Lottery In Alabama: “This Is My Personal Belief, I Have Nothing

To Back This Up, I Don't Believe It's Probably Going To Generate The Two To Three Hundred Million. Alabama Typically Does Not Have That Much Disposable Income, Like State Of Florida With Tourism Etcetera But That's Neither Here Or There. HOST: "There is going to be a real effort to try to let people vote on gambling. I picked that up that's the one thing I've been telling media that I picked up on last night. There is, there's going to be a real effort, which I'm glad to see, because I don't know anything about gambling. I probably never would buy a lotto ticket, but I've watched it all my life, and especially last 25 years, every state around us, Florida below you and me, and Georgia, and every state around Tennessee, Mississippi. Shoot, Mississippi funds about half their government off of gambling. And I'm going to tell you if you put it on the ballot and you give them a clean bill, which I think it would be doing this time, that thing passed 70-30. I'm going. People who in your church that are my age that would never buy a lotto ticket and I'd be one of them. I'd vote for that. I'd be beating the door down to beat that. I am so tired of our dollars going out of state." [...] MARQUES: "When it comes to lottery, 45 states have it, every state around us, and I, and I, this is my personal belief, I have nothing to back this up, I don't believe it's probably going to generate the two to three hundred million dollars. Alabama typically does not have that much disposable income, like state of Florida with tourism etcetera but that's neither here or there. When it comes to the lottery, I'm for letting the people decide on that, and you know, Representative Klaus, last year, last two years, has had good bills, clean lottery bills, as they were called, to vote, and they did not make it last year because of Covid. The year and the year before, because of I think a lot, some of, the legislators had a problem with how it was percentage of how the funds were going to be spent, but if it came a clean lottery bill, I'm with you. I think it would pass the state 70-30. The problem, though, that comes in is, is, table gaming. If it is a combined bill table gaming with lottery." HOST: "There's some legislators who are not not wanting table gaming." MARQUES: "That is correct, and and if you combine that to one bill that creates problems." HOST: "You think if you combine the two, that it won't, they won't get out of the legislature?" MARQUES: "It will be more difficult." [Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers via YouTube, 19:27, [2/3/21](#)] (VIDEO)

Casinos, Lottery, And Gambling

2020: Governor Ivey's Study Group On Gambling Policy Estimated A State-Run Lottery Could Generate \$200-\$300 Million; 2021: Marques Suggested A State-Run Lottery Would Not Generate That Much Revenue Because "Alabama Typically Does Not Have That Much Disposable Income"

2021: Marques Suggested A State-Run Lottery Would Not Generate "Two To Three Hundred Million" Because "Alabama Typically Does Not Have That Much Disposable Income" Compared To Florida

VIDEO: 2021: Marques On Allowing A Lottery In Alabama: "This Is My Personal Belief, I Have Nothing To Back This Up, I Don't Believe It's Probably Going To Generate The Two To Three Hundred Million. Alabama Typically Does Not Have That Much Disposable Income, Like State Of Florida With Tourism Etcetera But That's Neither Here Or There." HOST: "There is going to be a real effort to try to let people vote on gambling. I picked that up that's the one thing I've been telling media that I picked up on last night. There is, there's going to be a real effort, which I'm glad to see, because I don't know anything about gambling. I probably never would buy a lotto ticket, but I've watched it all my life, and especially last 25 years, every state around us, Florida below you and me, and Georgia, and every state around Tennessee, Mississippi. Shoot, Mississippi funds about half their government off of gambling. And I'm going to tell you if you put it on the ballot and you give them a clean bill, which I think it would be doing this time, that thing passed 70-30. I'm going. People who in your church that are my age that would never buy a lotto ticket and I'd be one of them. I'd vote for that. I'd be beating the door down to beat that. I am so tired of our dollars going out of state." [...] MARQUES: "When it comes to lottery, 45 states have it, every state around us, and I, and I, this is my personal belief, I have nothing to back this up, I don't believe it's probably going to generate the two to three hundred million dollars. Alabama typically does not have that much disposable income, like state of Florida with tourism etcetera but that's neither here or there. When it comes to the lottery, I'm for letting the people decide on that, and you know, Representative Klaus, last year, last two years, has had good bills, clean lottery bills, as they were called, to vote, and they did not make it last year because of Covid. The year and the year before, because of I think a lot, some of, the legislators had a problem with how it was percentage of how the funds were going to be spent, but if it came a clean lottery bill, I'm with you. I think it would pass the state 70-30. The problem, though, that comes in is, is, table gaming. If it is a combined bill

table gaming with lottery.” HOST: “There's some legislators who are not not wanting table gaming.” MARQUES: “That is correct, and and if you combine that to one bill that creates problems.” HOST: “You think if you combine the two, that it won't, they won't get out of the legislature?” MARQUES: “It will be more difficult.” [Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers via YouTube, 19:27, [2/3/21](#)] (VIDEO)

2020: Governor Ivey’s Study Group On Gambling Policy Estimated A State-Run Lottery Could Generate \$200-\$300 Million In Revenue

2020: Governor Ivey’s Study Group On Gambling Policy: A State-Run Lottery In Alabama “Could Generate Approximately \$200 Million To The State Annually During Its Early Years And Grow To Approximately \$300 Million Or More As It Matures.” “Given the data collected from other states, it can be reasonably concluded that the lottery business model works to the fiscal benefit of states. In all instances, states with lotteries – and their designated causes, initiatives, and programs – benefit from lottery activity. In Alabama, it is a reasonable expectation that a lottery – properly structured and operated like a business – could generate approximately \$200 million to the State annually during its early years and grow to approximately \$300 million or more as it matures. One observed characteristic of state lotteries is that revenues typically grow quickly, plateau, and then grow long-term at the rate of growth of the state.” [Governor Ivey’s Study Group on Gambling Policy, Gambling In Alabama Report, [12/18/20](#)]

Alabamians Crossed State Lines To Play The Lottery, Which Generated More Than \$8 Billion Toward Education Funding In Tennessee, And Supported A Lottery In Alabama To Benefit The State’s Education

2026: Alabamians Crossed State Lines To Play The Lottery, Which Generated More Than \$8 Billion Toward Education Funding In Tennessee. “Alabama lawmakers could take up a state lottery as soon as next session, according to a state senator. Alabama is one of only five states in the country without a lottery. Every surrounding state has one, with Tennessee alone directing more than \$8 billion in lottery proceeds toward education funding. Alabama Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) told WAFF 48 they may form a new initiative in the state legislature in the next two years, which could end Alabama’s absence of a state lottery. ‘When you have a new legislature, you have a lot of new members, so things may have moved around politically regarding that issue,’ Orr said. ‘So, we’ll see what happens.’ This comes as Alabamians continue crossing state lines to buy lottery tickets — including one player who walked away with \$720,000 from a winning Cash Lottery ticket purchased at TNT Beer and Tobacco in Ardmore, Tennessee, this week. The win drew attention to a familiar scene along the Tennessee-Alabama border: stores packed with Alabamians crossing state lines to buy tickets their home state does not sell. Tracy Meadows, an employee at TNT Beer and Tobacco in Ardmore, said he and customers have supported an Alabama lottery for years. Meadows, who also lives in Alabama, said their customer base stretches well into the state. ‘We got people coming from Birmingham, Cullman, Alabama, Guntersville, driving a long ways just to see us,’ he said.” [WAFF, [7/21/26](#)]

2026: An Alabama Resident Who Traveled To Tennessee To Play The Lottery Said A Lottery In Alabama “Could Do Tons Of Things, Especially For The Education, Which Is Definitely Needed Real Bad.” “Alabama lawmakers could take up a state lottery as soon as next session, according to a state senator. Alabama is one of only five states in the country without a lottery. Every surrounding state has one, with Tennessee alone directing more than \$8 billion in lottery proceeds toward education funding. [...] This comes as Alabamians continue crossing state lines to buy lottery tickets — including one player who walked away with \$720,000 from a winning Cash Lottery ticket purchased at TNT Beer and Tobacco in Ardmore, Tennessee, this week. The win drew attention to a familiar scene along the Tennessee-Alabama border: stores packed with Alabamians crossing state lines to buy tickets their home state does not sell. [...] Glenn Burkard, a TNT customer and Alabama resident, said the travel is a burden. ‘It’s very inconvenient,’ Burkard said. ‘And the fuel economy nowadays, you can’t hardly afford to do it.’ Both said an Alabama lottery would benefit residents and the state. ‘For the state, it could do tons of things, especially for the education, which is definitely needed real bad,’ Burkard said.” [WAFF, [7/21/26](#)]

2026: An Alabama Resident Said A Lottery In Alabama Would “Benefit A Lot Of Folks, No Doubt About It” And “Be Helpful In The Long Run With Everything They Can Benefit From It.” “This comes as Alabamians continue crossing state lines to buy lottery tickets — including one player who walked away with

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2021: Marques Said He Supported "Letting The People" Decide On A State-Run Lottery System, Saying A "Clean Lottery Bill" Would Pass A Public Vote, But Warned That A Constitutional Amendment Allowing Casino Gaming Would Be "Difficult" And "Controversial"

2021: Marques Said, "When It Comes To The Lottery, I'm For Letting The People Decide On That" And Believed A "Clean Lottery Bill" Would Pass A Public Vote

VIDEO: 2021: Marques On Allowing A Lottery In Alabama: "When It Comes To The Lottery, I'm For Letting The People Decide On That." HOST: "There is going to be a real effort to try to let people vote on gambling. I picked that up that's the one thing I've been telling media that I picked up on last night. There is, there's going to be a real effort, which I'm glad to see, because I don't know anything about gambling. I probably never would buy a lotto ticket, but I've watched it all my life, and especially last 25 years, every state around us, Florida below you and me, and Georgia, and every state around Tennessee, Mississippi. Shoot, Mississippi funds about half their government off of gambling. And I'm going to tell you if you put it on the ballot and you give them a clean bill, which I think it would be doing this time, that thing passed 70-30. I'm going. People who in your church that are my age that would never buy a lotto ticket and I'd be one of them. I'd vote for that. I'd be beating the door down to beat that. I am so tired of our dollars going out of state." [...] MARQUES: "When it comes to lottery, 45 states have it, every state around us, and I, and I, this is my personal belief, I have nothing to back this up, I don't believe it's probably going to generate the two to three hundred million. Alabama typically does not have that much disposable income, like state of Florida with tourism etcetera but that's neither here or there. When it comes to the lottery, I'm for letting the people decide on that, and you know, Representative Klaus, last year, last two years, has had good bills, clean lottery bills, as they were called, to vote, and they did not make it last year because of Covid. The year and the year before, because of I think a lot, some of, the legislators had a problem with how it was percentage of how the funds were going to be spent, but if it came a clean lottery bill, I'm with you. I think it would pass the state 70-30. The problem, though, that comes in is, is, table gaming. If it is a combined bill table gaming with lottery." HOST: "There's some legislators who are not not wanting table gaming." MARQUES: "That is correct, and and if you combine that to one bill that creates problems." HOST: "You think if you combine the two, that it won't, they won't get out of the legislature?" MARQUES: "It will be more difficult." [Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers via YouTube, 19:27, [2/3/21](#)] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: 2021: Marques Believed A "Clean Lottery Bill" Would Pass A Public Vote, Saying "If It Came A Clean Lottery Bill, I'm With You. I Think It Would Pass The State 70-30." HOST: "There is going to be a real effort to try to let people vote on gambling. I picked that up that's the one thing I've been telling media that I picked up on last night. There is, there's going to be a real effort, which I'm glad to see, because I don't know anything about gambling. I probably never would buy a lotto ticket, but I've watched it all my life, and especially last 25 years, every state around us, Florida below you and me, and Georgia, and every state around Tennessee, Mississippi. Shoot, Mississippi funds about half their government off of gambling. And I'm going to tell you if you put it on the ballot and you give them a clean bill, which I think it would be doing this time, that thing passed 70-30. I'm going. People who in your church that are my age that would never buy a lotto ticket and I'd be one of them. I'd vote for that. I'd be beating the door down to beat that. I am so tired of our dollars going out of state." [...] MARQUES: "When it comes to lottery, 45 states have it, every state around us, and I, and I, this is my

personal belief, I have nothing to back this up, I don't believe it's probably going to generate the two to three hundred million. Alabama typically does not have that much disposable income, like state of Florida with tourism etcetera but that's neither here or there. When it comes to the lottery, I'm for letting the people decide on that, and you know, Representative Klaus, last year, last two years, has had good bills, clean lottery bills, as they were called, to vote, and they did not make it last year because of Covid. The year and the year before, because of I think a lot, some of, the legislators had a problem with how it was percentage of how the funds were going to be spent, but if it came a clean lottery bill, I'm with you. I think it would pass the state 70-30. The problem, though, that comes in is, is, table gaming. If it is a combined bill table gaming with lottery.” HOST: “There's some legislators who are not not wanting table gaming.” MARQUES: “That is correct, and and if you combine that to one bill that creates problems.” HOST: “You think if you combine the two, that it won't, they won't get out of the legislature?” MARQUES: “It will be more difficult.” [Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers via YouTube, 19:27, [2/3/21](#)] (VIDEO)

2021: Marques Said He Did Not Believe A Table Gaming Bill Or Constitutional Amendment Allowing Casino Gambling Would Pass, Calling The Issues “Difficult” And “Controversial”

VIDEO: 2021: Marques Believed A Combined Table Gaming And Lottery Bill Would Not Pass The State Legislature, Saying “The Problem, Though, That Comes In Is, Is, Table Gaming. If It Is A Combined Bill Table Gaming With Lottery. [...] It Will Be More Difficult. HOST: “There is going to be a real effort to try to let people vote on gambling. I picked that up that’s the one thing I’ve been telling media that I picked up on last night. There is, there's going to be a real effort, which I’m glad to see, because I don't know anything about gambling. I probably never would buy a lotto ticket, but I've watched it all my life, and especially last 25 years, every state around us, Florida below you and me, and Georgia, and every state around Tennessee, Mississippi. Shoot, Mississippi funds about half their government off of gambling. And I’m going to tell you if you put it on the ballot and you give them a clean bill, which I think it would be doing this time, that thing passed 70-30. I’m going. People who in your church that are my age that would never buy a lotto ticket and I’d be one of them. I’d vote for that. I’d be beating the door down to beat that. I am so tired of our dollars going out of state.” [...] MARQUES: “When it comes to lottery, 45 states have it, every state around us, and I, and I, this is my personal belief, I have nothing to back this up, I don't believe it's probably going to generate the two to three hundred million. Alabama typically does not have that much disposable income, like state of Florida with tourism etcetera but that's neither here or there. When it comes to the lottery, I'm for letting the people decide on that, and you know, Representative Klaus, last year, last two years, has had good bills, clean lottery bills, as they were called, to vote, and they did not make it last year because of Covid. The year and the year before, because of I think a lot, some of, the legislators had a problem with how it was percentage of how the funds were going to be spent, but if it came a clean lottery bill, I'm with you. I think it would pass the state 70-30. The problem, though, that comes in is, is, table gaming. If it is a combined bill table gaming with lottery.” HOST: “There's some legislators who are not not wanting table gaming.” MARQUES: “That is correct, and and if you combine that to one bill that creates problems.” HOST: “You think if you combine the two, that it won't, they won't get out of the legislature?” MARQUES: “It will be more difficult.” [Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers via YouTube, 19:27, [2/3/21](#)] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: 2021: Marques Said He Did Not Believe A Constitutional Amendment Allowing Casino Gaming Would Pass, Saying “I Haven’t Polled The State And Seeing If They Want Casino Gaming, But I Think You Become It Becomes A Lot More Controversial When You Add The Casino Table Gaming On To That.” HOST: “There's some legislators who are not not wanting table gaming.” MARQUES: “That is correct, and and if you combine that to one bill that creates problems.” HOST: “You think if you combine the two, that it won't, they won't get out of the legislature?” MARQUES: “It will be more difficult.” [...] HOST: “Well, the commission that Governor Ivey came with.” MARQUES: “That’s \$700 or \$800 million they were saying.” HOST: “They said conservative \$500. [crosstalk] They did such a good study that was such a quality group of people doing that study that I would trust them to come back with something. They, because I don't think the first one had anything to gain, and they, and it was, and they came back and said that if you went with casino and lottery, I'm like you, I think if you just do the lottery, you've missed the boat. I think we, that ain't that ain't worth almost fooling with.” [...] MARQUES: “You know, if you just come with lottery, though, it will pass.” HOST: “Oh yeah.” MARQUES: “But you come with lottery casino and pass the constitutional amendment for the people. People would vote on 70-30. I mean, state of Alabama. But when you add the gaming into it. I don't know. I haven’t polled the state and seeing if

they want casino gaming, but I think you become it becomes a lot more controversial when you add the casino table gaming on to that.” HOST: “You got to have some kind of the commission came back and the regulatory has to be there too.” MARQUES: “Oh yeah, absolutely.” HOST: “You got to have a real strong regulatory thing.” MARQUES: “Yes, you do.” [Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers via YouTube, 21:44, [2/3/21](#)] (VIDEO)

Data Centers

2026: Marques Said On Data Centers In Alabama, “Well First Of All, They’re Coming” And “There’s Plenty Of Places In Alabama For A Data Center [...] There’s Plenty Of Rural Land And There’s Plenty Of Spots For It”

VIDEO: 2026: Marques Suggested Data Centers Would Inevitably Come To Alabama, Saying “Well First Of All They’re Coming. Every Time You Use A Phone, You’re Using AI.” AUDIENCE MEMBER: “Do you support AI data centers in Alabama and why or why not?” MARQUES: “Well first of all they’re coming. Every time you use a phone, you’re using AI. There’s a reason the president wants data centers in this country, because he knows we’ve got stay ahead of the tricommerce. We cannot allow them to beat us on this. Now, having said that, this year in the legislature, we passed the bill that made the burden upon the data centers to pay for the grid, the water, the etcetera to make sure it did not go the people to make sure that the money that to build was strictly on those that own that on that business not on the people. It is, I believe up to the locals whether want it or not. There’s plenty of places in Alabama for a data center. Doesn’t necessarily have to be sitting in in Dothan or whatever. There’s plenty of rural land and there’s plenty of spots for it but it should be up to the local counties and municipalities. Thank you.” [David Matthews for Congress, 0:00, [7/29/26](#)] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: 2026: Marques Said, “There’s Plenty Of Places In Alabama For A Data Center. [...] There’s Plenty Of Rural Land And There’s Plenty Of Spots For It.” AUDIENCE MEMBER: “Do you support AI data centers in Alabama and why or why not?” MARQUES: “Well first of all they’re coming. Every time you use a phone, you’re using AI. There’s a reason the president wants data centers in this country, because he knows we’ve got stay ahead of the tricommerce. We cannot allow them to beat us on this. Now, having said that, this year in the legislature, we passed the bill that made the burden upon the data centers to pay for the grid, the water, the etcetera to make sure it did not go the people to make sure that the money that to build was strictly on those that own that on that business not on the people. It is, I believe up to the locals whether want it or not. There’s plenty of places in Alabama for a data center. Doesn’t necessarily have to be sitting in in Dothan or whatever. There’s plenty of rural land and there’s plenty of spots for it but it should be up to the local counties and municipalities. Thank you.” [David Matthews for Congress, 0:00, [7/29/26](#)] (VIDEO)

VIDEO: 2026: Marques Said Of Building Data Centers In Alabama, “I Believe Up To The Locals Whether Want It Or Not.” AUDIENCE MEMBER: “Do you support AI data centers in Alabama and why or why not?” MARQUES: “Well first of all they’re coming. Every time you use a phone, you’re using AI. There’s a reason the president wants data centers in this country, because he knows we’ve got stay ahead of the tricommerce. We cannot allow them to beat us on this. Now, having said that, this year in the legislature, we passed the bill that made the burden upon the data centers to pay for the grid, the water, the etcetera to make sure it did not go the people to make sure that the money that to build was strictly on those that own that on that business not on the people. It is, I believe up to the locals whether want it or not. There’s plenty of places in Alabama for a data center. Doesn’t necessarily have to be sitting in in Dothan or whatever. There’s plenty of rural land and there’s plenty of spots for it but it should be up to the local counties and municipalities. Thank you.” [David Matthews for Congress, 0:00, [7/29/26](#)] (VIDEO)

- **Marques: “This Year In The Legislature, We Passed The Bill That Made The Burden Upon The Data Centers To Pay For The Grid, The Water, The Etcetera To Make Sure It Did Not Go To The People [...] That The Money That To Build Was Strictly On [The] Business, Not The People.”** AUDIENCE MEMBER: “Do you support AI data centers in Alabama and why or why not?” MARQUES: “Well first of all they’re coming. Every time you use a phone, you’re using AI. There’s a reason the president wants data centers in this country, because he knows we’ve got stay ahead of the tricommerce. We cannot allow them to beat us

on this. Now, having said that, this year in the legislature, we passed the bill that made the burden upon the data centers to pay for the grid, the water, the etcetera to make sure it did not go the people to make sure that the money that to build was strictly on those that own that on that business not on the people. It is, I believe up to the locals whether want it or not. There’s plenty of places in Alabama for a data center. Doesn’t necessarily have to be sitting in in Dothan or whatever. There’s plenty of rural land and there’s plenty of spots for it but it should be up to the local counties and municipalities. Thank you.” [David Matthews for Congress, 0:00, [7/29/26](#)] (VIDEO)

2026: Marques Held Up To \$50,000 In Nvidia Investments, Which Made Billions Of Dollars Off Data Center-Related Sales And Was Behind Plans To Build The Largest Data Center Project To Date In Ohio

2026: Marques Held Up To \$50,000 In Nvidia Stock

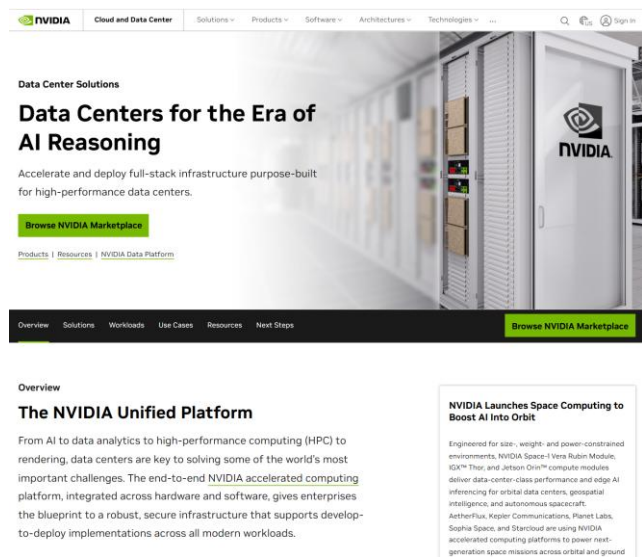
2026: Marques Held Between \$15,001 To \$50,000 In Nvidia Corporation Stock. According to Marques’ 2026 financial disclosure report, he held between \$15,001 to \$50,000 in Nvidia Corporation stock. [U.S. House Clerk, 2026 Rhett Marques Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/25/26](#)]

Rhett & Christina Joint Account ⇒	JT	\$15,001 - \$50,000	Dividends	None	None
NVIDIA Corporation - Common Stock (NVDA) [ST]					
DESCRIPTION: 150.07 SHARES OF COMMON STOCK DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT					

[U.S. House Clerk, 2026 Rhett Marques Financial Disclosure Report, filed [5/25/26](#)]

2026: Nvidia Reported \$75.2 Billion In Data Center-Related Sales During The First Quarter Of 2027 And Was Linked To Plans To Open Build The Largest Data Center To Date In Ohio

2026: Nvidia Marketed Its Accelerated Computing Platform As A Full-Stack Data Center Solution And Said “Data Centers Are Key To Solving Some Of The World’s Most Important Challenges.” “Data Centers for the Era of AI Reasoning. Accelerate and deploy full-stack infrastructure purpose-built for high-performance data centers. Overview. The NVIDIA Unified Platform. From AI to data analytics to high-performance computing (HPC) to rendering, data centers are key to solving some of the world’s most important challenges. The end-to-end NVIDIA accelerated computing platform, integrated across hardware and software, gives enterprises the blueprint to a robust, secure infrastructure that supports develop-to-deploy implementations across all modern workloads.” [Nvidia, accessed [8/3/26](#)]



[Nvidia, accessed [8/3/26](#)]

2026: Data Centers Made Up 92% Of Nvidia's Revenue In The First Fiscal Quarter Of 2027. "Just a few years ago, Nvidia's largest revenue source was gaming. The AI build-out changed that, as data centers have made up an increasingly larger share of its sales. In its fiscal first quarter of 2027, which ended April 26, 2026, it reported total revenue of \$81.6 billion, with data center sales accounting for 92% (\$75.2 billion) of that. While Nvidia and other chipmakers reached new highs earlier this year, investors have grown concerned about a potential slowdown in AI infrastructure spending. Here's why Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang argues that there's still plenty of money to be made -- and answers whether the company's reliance on AI spending is an issue." [Motley Fool, [7/3/26](#)]

2026: Nvidia Was Linked To OpenAI's Plan To Build The Largest Data Center To Date In Ohio. "Nvidia is in talks to provide a roughly \$250 billion backstop for OpenAI as part of a massive data-center project, one of the most ambitious financial transactions yet in America's artificial-intelligence boom. The guarantees from Nvidia would help the ChatGPT maker lease a 10-gigawatt project that SoftBank's energy subsidiary is developing in southern Ohio, people familiar with the matter said. In total, the project could cost more than \$500 billion, including the chips that would go inside the data centers. It would be the largest data-center project announced to date." [Wall Street Journal, [7/26/26](#)]

Nicotine

2025: Marques Voted For A 4.5% Tax On The Sale Of Vapor Products, Alternative Nicotine Products, And Tobacco Products

April 2025: Marques Voted For H.B. 496, "Elmore County, To Allow County Commission To Levy A Tax On Vapor Products, Alternative Nicotine Products, And Tobacco Products; And To Levy A Property Assessment." In April 2025, Marques voted for H.B. 496, "Elmore County, to allow county commission to levy a tax on vapor products, alternative nicotine products, and tobacco products; and to levy a property assessment." The motion passed by a vote of 64-0-35. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 496](#), Roll Call 742, [4/9/25](#)]

- **H.B. 496 Authorized The Elmore County Commission To Levy A 4.5% Tax On The Sale Of Vapor Products, Alternative Nicotine Products, And Tobacco Products In The County.** "(b) The county commission may levy a county excise tax in Elmore County at the rate of four and one-half percent of the gross proceeds of the wholesale sale of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, and tobacco products in the county." [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 496, [4/1/25](#)]
- **70% Of Proceeds From H.B. 496 Were Distributed To "Public Health And Safety."** "(2) The county commission shall appropriate the proceeds of this tax as follows: a. Seventy percent for public health and safety. b. Thirty percent for county fire and rescue protection purposes. These funds shall be distributed to the Elmore County Firefighters Association for equal allocation to each member county fire department. These funds shall be used at the discretion of the individual department for fire protection, fire prevention, and emergency medical services to include, but not be limited to, fire or emergency medical equipment, fire or emergency medical supplies, training, buildings, capital improvements, insurance, dues, and professional services, unless otherwise prohibited by local law." [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 496, [4/1/25](#)]
- **30% Of Proceeds From H.B. 496 Were Distributed To County Fire And Rescue Protection Purposes.** "(2) The county commission shall appropriate the proceeds of this tax as follows: a. Seventy percent for public health and safety. b. Thirty percent for county fire and rescue protection purposes. These funds shall be distributed to the Elmore County Firefighters Association for equal allocation to each member county fire department. These funds shall be used at the discretion of the individual department for fire protection, fire prevention, and emergency medical services to include, but not be limited to, fire or emergency medical equipment, fire or emergency medical supplies, training, buildings, capital improvements, insurance, dues, and professional services, unless otherwise prohibited by local law." [Alabama State Legislature, H.B. 496, [4/1/25](#)]

2021: Marques Voted Against Requiring Contractors Performing Renovations In Housing Occupied By Children Or Built Before 1978 To Provide Owners And Occupants With Lead Hazard Information

May 2021: Marques Voted Against S.B. 143, “Lead Reduction, Revise Authority Of Department Of Public Health To Administer Program.” In May 2021, Marques voted against: “Lead reduction, revise authority of Department of Public Health to administer program.” The motion passed by a vote of 57-43-0. [Alabama State Legislature, [S.B. 143](#), [5/17/21](#)]

- **S.B. 143 Would Require Anyone Paid To Perform Renovations In “Target Housing” And “Child-Occupied Facilities” To Provide The Owners And Occupants With A Lead Hazard Information Pamphlet Before Starting Any Work.** “(6) Establish a program for the education of owners and occupants of target housing and child-occupied facilities concerning lead-based paint hazards. This program shall require persons who perform renovation in such facilities for compensation to provide owners and occupants with a lead hazard information pamphlet prior to commencing the renovation. The program shall meet the requirements of the federal program under the Lead Based Paint Exposure Reduction Act, 15 U.S.C. §2681 et. seq.” [Alabama State Legislature, [S.B. 143](#), [2/2/21](#)]
- **S.B. 143 Defined “Target Housing” Based On Its Definition In 40 17 C.F.R. 745.103.** “(14) TARGET HOUSING. The term as defined in 40 17 C.F.R. 745.103.” [Alabama State Legislature, [S.B. 143](#), [2/2/21](#)]
- **40 17 C.F.R. 745.103 Defined “Target Housing” As “Any Housing Constructed Prior To 1978, Except Housing For The Elderly Or Persons With Disabilities Or Any 0-Bedroom Dwelling (Unless Any Child Who Is Less Than 6 Years Of Age Resides Or Is Expected To Reside In Such Housing).”** “Target housing means any housing constructed prior to 1978, except housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities or any 0-bedroom dwelling (unless any child who is less than 6 years of age resides or is expected to reside in such housing).” [U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, accessed [7/9/26](#)]