

Rhett Marques Overview Backup

Rhett Marques is a cost-raising politician who looks out for his elite billionaire backers while voting for plans to raise taxes, and supporting plans to raise healthcare costs, and increase prices on everyday items like groceries, gas, and farm supplies for Alabamians.

Rhett Marques Is A Cost-Raising Politician Who Looks Out For His Elite Billionaire Backers

Marques Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill, Applauded Its Passage, And Said He Was “Proud” Of The Legislation

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According to Rhett Marques at a candidate forum, “MARQUES: People are hurting right now. The country is, spent four years under the Biden administration with inflation rates going into historic highs. And that is, I am very proud to say that President Trump, with the Working Family Tax Cut, put more money in people's pocket with tax cuts on overtime, tips, and other tax cuts.” [District 1 Candidate Forum, [4/1/26](#)] (VIDEO)

Marques Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill And Applauded The President For Its Passage.

According to Rhett Marques on Alabama AgCast, “MARQUES: Our food supply is national security. And we have got to protect our farmers. And becoming energy dominant will help drive down fuel prices. But also with the fertilizer costs right now that are out of control. There in Muscle Shoals is one of the largest facilities for fertilizer and we're looking to expand that here in Alabama to put hopefully more facilities in, to where we can produce more fertilizer. And that will help drive down costs because it will be more local and we're not buying foreign etc. So I'm excited about this opportunity. And I applaud the president and the working family tax cut for putting in there the billions to go back to the farmers, but also extending the death tax, which I don't really believe in the death tax anyway, I've never understood, I think is a double tax.” [Alabama AgCast, [8/4/26](#)] (AUDIO)

Marques Said Trump Had Done A “Great Job” Passing The One Big Beautiful Bill. According to Rhett Marques on Rightside Media, “Marques: Well, it all comes down to putting more money in the pockets of the people of the state of Alabama. President Trump did a great job passing America's first, excuse me the working families tax cut, the largest tax cut in American history. We did the same thing in Alabama as a state representative. We cut taxes by 1.5 million billion, rather not million, but billion dollars. And we had Alabama's largest tax cut with cutting your grocery tax in half. And so, you know, right now prices are high because of the Obama administration. Inflation was out of control for 40 year highs on inflation. And we are still trying to work down the prices. And, you know, you look at what Wal-Mart did the other day by cutting their retail costs by 15% across the board, it's starting to happen. But it's going to take time. The Biden administration, the four years under the Biden administration, put us well behind. And it's going to take some time to get it fixed. But President Trump is doing that, and I'm proud to go help him continue that and make sure that we continue working for the farmers in our district, our military and our veterans. And so I'm excited. The second congressional district is a great, great place. We have a lot to offer.” [Rightside Media, [8/7/26](#)] (VIDEO)

The One Big Beautiful Bill Was A “Massive Tax Break For Billionaires”

BlueGreen Alliance: OBBB Was “A Massive Tax Break For Billionaires.” “The House budget bill, if enacted, puts at risk more than two million U.S. jobs from the provisions to repeal manufacturing tax

credits alone. If the provisions in this bill become law, workers will be the ones to pay the price. It sells them out to foot the bill for a massive tax break for billionaires. Across the country, and in red states especially, this bill would spell the loss of massive job creation and economic stimulus.” [BlueGreen Alliance Research Brief, pg. 3, accessed [10/22/25](#)]

The OBBB Extended Trump’s 2017 Corporate And Individual Tax Cuts. “The 1,100-page bill would extend corporate and individual tax cuts passed in 2017 during Trump’s first term in office, cancel many green-energy incentives passed by Democratic former President Joe Biden and tighten eligibility for health and food programs for the poor. It also would fund Trump’s crackdown on immigration, adding tens of thousands of border guards and creating the capacity to deport up to 1 million people each year. Regulations on firearm silencers would be loosened.” [Reuters, [5/22/25](#)]

- **2018: S&P 500 Companies Could See \$1.64 Trillion in Tax Cuts Under The Trump’s Bill.** “In other words, you can thank tax cuts for nearly half the growth in big-company earnings in the first quarter. For many companies – including a favorite target of Trump’s ire, Amazon.com Inc. – the boost was even more substantial, representing all, or nearly all, the quarter’s growth. It gets better: At the rate they’re going, S&P 500 companies could save \$1.64 trillion in taxes over the next decade, Steve estimates – \$300 billion more than lawmakers expected. Now we’re talking real money.” [Bloomberg News, [5/25/18](#)]

Marques Accepted Campaign Contributions From Multiple Billionaires

Marques Accepted \$13,000 From James W. Rane Sr., The Billionaire Founder And Chairman Of Great Southern Wood Preserving

Marques Has Accepted \$13,000 From James W. Rane Sr. [FEC, accessed [9/22/26](#)]

Contributions From James W. Rane To Rhett for Alabama			
DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	EMPLOYER	AMOUNT
9/30/25	RANE, JAMES W. SR.	GREAT SOUTHERN WOOD PRESERVING	\$3,500.00
9/30/25	RANE, JAMES W. SR.	GREAT SOUTHERN WOOD PRESERVING	\$3,500.00
9/30/25	RANE, JAMES W. SR.	GREAT SOUTHERN WOOD PRESERVING	\$3,000.00
9/30/25	RANE, JAMES W. SR.	GREAT SOUTHERN WOOD PRESERVING	\$3,000.00
TOTAL			\$13,000

[FEC, accessed [9/22/26](#)]

- **Forbes: Jimmy Rane, The Founder And Chairman Of Great Southern Wood Preserving, Had An Estimated Net Worth Of \$1.46 Billion.** “Jimmy Rane \$1.464B Real Time Net Worth as of 9/22/26 #2704 in the world today. Jimmy Rane is founder and chairman of Great Southern Wood Preserving, which makes decks, fences and other treated lumber products. Rane is better known as ‘the Yella Fella,’ his cowboy alter-ego who appeared in his company’s TV commercials. He and his brother transformed the family’s \$22,000 (1971 sales) backyard treating plant into a company with nearly \$2 billion in annual sales. Rane served as CEO for more than half a century before retiring from the top job in 2025.” [Forbes, accessed [9/22/26](#)]

Marques Has Accepted \$14,000 From Raymond J. Harbert, The Head Of Harbert Management Corporation, Which Was Worth An Estimated \$26 Billion In 2008

Marques Has Accepted \$14,000 From Raymond J. Harbert. [FEC, accessed [9/22/26](#)]

Contributions From Raymond J. Harbert to Rhett for Alabama			
DATE	CONTRIBUTOR	EMPLOYER	AMOUNT
11/6/25	HARBERT, RAYMOND J.	HARBERT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION	\$3,500.00
11/6/25	HARBERT, RAYMOND J.	HARBERT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION	\$3,500.00
11/6/25	HARBERT, RAYMOND J.	HARBERT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION	\$3,500.00
11/6/25	HARBERT, RAYMOND J.	HARBERT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION	\$3,500.00
TOTAL			\$14,000.00

[FEC, accessed [9/22/26](#)]

- **Washington Post: Raymond Harbert Inherited Harbert Corp. From His Father, A Billionaire, And Launched Harbert Capital Partners, And By 2008 The Company Had \$26 Billion Of Assets.** “Raymond Harbert, chief executive officer of Birmingham, Ala.-based Harbert Corp., had a radical proposal for his father. It was 1992, and the company that had made his dad, John M. Harbert III, a billionaire was \$300 million in debt and eking out small profits. Raymond proposed selling the core construction business, which dated to the company’s founding in 1946. The elder Harbert threw his son out of his office, an associate recalls. Raymond, then 33, eventually persuaded his father to sell. Once the debt was extinguished, he presented his father with another big idea: shifting the family business into finance. John Harbert not only gave his approval this time, he loaned his son \$3 million against his inheritance to launch the investment firm, Harbert Management Corp. [...] Raymond’s first crack at launching a hedge fund produced Harbinger Capital Partners — the firm run by Philip Falcone, who in 2001 took seed capital of \$25 million and by mid-2008 had turned it into \$26 billion of assets.” [Washington Post, [6/3/12](#)]

While Voting For Plans To Raise Taxes,

Marques Has Voted More Than 22 Times To Raise Taxes And Fees In Alabama

1: April 2026: Marques Voted To Advance A Bill To Raise Property Taxes In Henry County

April 2026: Marques Voted To Advance SB374, A Bill That Would Levy Property Taxes In Henry County To Be Used For School Projects. On 4/7/26, Rhett Marques voted YES on moving to a third reading: “This act proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, relating to Henry County, to levy an ad valorem tax of three mills per dollar of assessed value on all taxable property south of Sandy Creek to be used exclusively for public school projects in Headland beginning October 1, 2027 and continuing through September 30, 2034.” The motion carried 69-0 with 35 abstentions. [Alabama State Legislature, [SB374](#), Roll Call 1191, [4/7/26](#)]

2: March 2026: Marques Voted To Levy A Local Privilege Tax On Horse Racing In Mobile County

April 2026: Marques Voted For S.B. 346, Levying A Local Privilege Tax On Horse Racing In Mobile County. On March 31, 2026, Marques voted for SB346, “Relating to Mobile County; to levy a local privilege tax on the net gambling revenue collected on pari-mutuel wagering on historical horse racing activities in the county. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA” The motion passed by a vote of 93-0 with 10 abstentions. [Alabama State Legislature, [SB346](#), [3/31/26](#)]

3: February 2026: Marques Voted To Increase The Lodging Tax In Blount County

February 2026: Marques Voted For H.B. 331, Increasing The Lodging Tax In Blount County. In February 2026, Marques voted for H.B. 331: “Relating to Blount County; to amend Section 45-5-247, Code of Alabama 1975, to increase the existing lodging tax; to authorize the county commission to levy an additional lodging tax in the county; to provide for the collection of the tax; and to provide for distribution of the proceeds.” [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 331](#), Roll Call 263, [2/3/26](#)]

4: May 2025: Marques Voted To Levy A Rental Tax In Elmore County

May 2025: Marques Voted For H.B. 372, Levying A Rental Tax In Elmore County. May 2025, Marques voted for H.B. 372: “An Act relating to Elmore County; to levy a county rental tax and provide for the calculation of the rate; and to provide for the distribution of the proceeds collected from the tax.” [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 372](#), Roll Cal 1240, [5/7/25](#)]

5: 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](#)]

6: April 2025: Marques Voted To Increase The Lodging Tax In Blount County

April 2025: Marques Voted For H.B. 534, Increasing The Lodging Tax In Blount County. In April

2025, Marques voted for H.B. 534: “Relating to Blount County; to increase the existing lodging tax; to authorize the county commission to levy an additional lodging tax in the county; to provide for the collection of the tax; and to provide for distribution of the proceeds.” The motion stalled in the Senate Committee on Local Legislation. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 534](#), Roll Call 766, [4/10/25](#)]

7: April 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](#)]

8: April 2025: Marques Voted To Tax Vapor, Alternative Nicotine, And Cannabis Products In Covington County

April 2025: Marques Voted For H.B. 552, Taxing Vapor, Alternative Nicotine, And Cannabis Products In Covington County. In April 2025, Marques voted for H.B. 552: “Relating to Covington County; to levy county excise taxes on vapor products, vaping devices, alternative nicotine products, and psychoactive cannabinoids; to provide for civil penalties for violations; and to provide for the collection and distribution of the proceeds of the taxes.” The motion stalled in the Senate Committee on Local Legislation. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 552](#), Roll Call 832, [4/15/25](#)]

9: 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](#)]

10: March 2025: Marques Voted To Levy A County Sales And Use Tax In Elmore County

March 2025: Marques Voted For H.B. 369, Levying A County Sales And Use Tax In Elmore County. “In March 20225, Marques voted for H.B. 369: Relating to Elmore County; to levy a county sales and use tax and provide for the calculation of the rate; to provide for the distribution of the proceeds collected from the tax; to create the Enhance Elmore Fund; and to provide for the allocation of monies deposited into the fund.” [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 369](#), Roll Call 400, [3/18/25](#)]

11: February 2025: Marques Voted To Increase The Lodging Tax In Dale County

February 2025: Marques Voted For H.B. 135, Increasing The Lodging Tax In Dale County. In February 2025, Marques voted for H.B. 135, “Relating to Dale County; to amend Section 45-23-243 of the Code of Alabama 1975, authorizing the county commission to levy a lodging tax in the county and providing for the distribution of the net proceeds for economic and tourism development; to increase the tax to be distributed for the same purposes.” [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 135](#), Roll Call 88, [2/13/25](#)]

12: April 2024: Marques Voted To Levy A Lodging Tax In Houston County

April 2024: Marques Voted For H.B. 395, Levying A Lodging Tax In Houston County. In April 2024, Marques voted for H.B. 395: “Relating to Houston County; authorizing the Houston County Commission to levy a lodging tax in the county; providing for the distribution of the proceeds from the tax; and to provide for a referendum.” [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 395](#) Roll Call 502, [4/11/24](#)]

13: 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](#), sponsored [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 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](#)]

14: May 2023: Marques Voted To Levy An 8% Tax On The Gross Proceeds Of Retail Cannabis Products

May 2023: Marques Voted For S.B. 66, Levying An 8% Tax On The Gross Proceeds Of Retail Cannabis Products. In May 2023, Marques voted for S.B. 66: “Relating to cannabis; to prohibit the sale, distribution, marketing, or possession of psychoactive cannabinoids found in hemp for certain age

groups; to levy an eight percent tax on the gross proceeds of products containing psychoactive cannabinoids sold at retail; to distribute the gross proceeds of the tax to the State General Fund; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.” The bill passed the House 105-0 and was signed into law by the Governor. [Alabama State Legislature, [S.B. 66](#), Roll Call 519, [5/2/23](#)]

15: April 2023: Marques Voted To Increase Property Taxes In The City Of Vestavia Hills

April 2023: Marques Voted For S.B. 63, Increasing Property Taxes In The City Of Vestavia Hills. In April 2023, Marques vote for SB 63: “To authorize the governing body of the City of Vestavia Hills, Alabama, pursuant to Amendment No. 373 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 217 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to increase the rate at which there is levied and collected by the city, on all taxable property situated within the city, the special ad valorem tax for public school purposes authorized in Amendment No. 56 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing as Section 216.04 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, to a maximum rate, for any tax year of the city, which is equal to \$3.54 on each one hundred dollars (\$100) (35.4 mills on each dollar) of assessed value.” [Alabama State Legislature, [S.B. 63](#), Roll Call 44, [4/6/23](#)]

16: March 2022: Marques Voted To Increase Taxes On Alcohol In Washington County

March 2022: Marques Voted For H.B. 426, Increasing Taxes On Alcohol In Washington County. In March 2022, Marques voted for H.B. 426: “An Act, To propose an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating to Washington County, to provide that Washington County would be a wet county for the purposes of the laws of this state relating to alcoholic beverages subject to subsequent elections to change the classification; and to authorize the county commission to levy additional taxes on alcoholic beverages to be deposited in the county general fund.” [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 426](#), Roll Call 478, [3/8/22](#)]

17: February 2021: Marques Voted To Propose A Local Amendment To The Alabama Constitution Enabling Certain Municipalities To Levy An Ad Valorem Tax

February 2021: Marques Voted For H.B. 178, Proposing A Local Amendment To The Alabama Constitution Enabling Certain Municipalities To Levy An Ad Valorem Tax. In February 2021, Marques voted for H.B. 178: “An Act, Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, to authorize each municipality authorized under Amendment No. 8 to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, now appearing Section 216.01 of the Recompiled Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, to levy and collect the ad valorem tax under Amendment No. 8 for the purpose of paying debt service on bonds, to levy and collect the ad valorem tax at the rate lawfully permitted for such municipality to directly pay the costs of public capital improvements, as well as to pay the principal of and interest on bonds, warrants, or other securities issued to finance or refinance the costs of improvements; and to ratify, validate, and confirm any prior levy and collection of the ad valorem tax for these purposes.” The bill passed the House 98-0 and was enrolled and delivered to the Secretary of State. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 178](#), Roll Call 178, [2/4/21](#)]

18: May 2020: Marques Voted To Propose A Local Amendment To The Alabama Constitution Authorizing An Additional Property Tax To Be Levied In Crenshaw County

May 2020: Marques Voted For H.B. 472, Proposing A Local Amendment To The Alabama Constitution Authorizing An Additional Property Tax To Be Levied In Crenshaw County. In May

2020, Marques voted for H.B. 472: “An Act, To propose a local amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, relating to Crenshaw County, to authorize the Crenshaw County Commission to levy an additional ad valorem tax at the rate not to exceed three mills on each dollar of assessed value of taxable property in the county to be distributed to the Crenshaw County Health Care Authority for public hospital purposes and related health care purposes.” The motion passed 65-0-10 and was enrolled and delivered to the Secretary of State. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 472](#), Roll Call 519, [5/7/20](#)]

19: March 2020: Marques Voted To Increase Property Taxes In The City Of Guntersville

March 2020: Marques Voted For H.B. 389, Increasing The City Of Guntersville’s Special School Ad Valorem Tax. “To authorize the City Council of the City of Guntersville in Marshall County, pursuant to Amendment No. 373 of the Constitution of Alabama 1901, as amended, to increase the rate of the city's special school ad valorem tax levied and collected on all taxable property in the city authorized pursuant to the applicable provisions of the general laws of this state and pursuant to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended, by an additional amount up to 9 mills on each dollar (\$0.90 on each one hundred dollars) of assessed value, to be used exclusively for capital outlay or debt service for public schools.” [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 389](#), Roll Call 298, [3/12/20](#)]

20: May 2019: Marques Voted To Levy A Lodging Tax In Autauga County

May 2019: Marques Voted For S.B. 43, Levying A Lodging Tax In Autauga County. In May 2019, Marques voted for S.B. 43: “Relating to Autauga County; authorizing the levy of a lodging tax and providing for the distribution of the proceeds from the tax.” [Alabama State Legislature, [S.B. 43](#), Roll Call 648, [5/4/19](#)]

21: April 2019: Marques Voted For A Lodging Tax In Coffee County

April 2019: Marques Voted For H.B. 382, Establishing A Lodging Tax In Coffee County. In April 2019, Marques voted for H.B. 382: “Relating to Coffee County; to authorize the Coffee County Commission to levy a lodging tax; and to provide for the collection of the tax and the distribution of the proceeds from the tax.” The motion failed to pass the House by a vote of 21-0 with 73 abstentions. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B. 382](#), Roll Call 270, [4/18/19](#)]

22: April 2019: Marques Voted To Tax Tobacco Products In Mobile County

April 2019: Marques Voted For H.B. 104, Establishing A Tax On Tobacco Products In Mobile County. In April 2019, Marques voted for H.B. 104: “Relating to Mobile County; to provide for the local collection and enforcement of all county privilege, license, or excise taxes on the sale, distribution, storage, use, or other consumption of tobacco products in the county.” The motion failed to pass the House by a vote of 29-0 with 68 abstentions. [Alabama State Legislature, [H.B.104](#), Roll Call 241, [4/18/19](#)]

23: 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](#)]

24: 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 (\$.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 (\$.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](#)]

25: 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 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. [...] 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.”** “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](#)]

And Supporting Plans To Raise Healthcare Costs,

Marques Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill, Applauded Its Passage, And Said He Was “Proud” Of The Legislation

Marques Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill And Said He Was “Proud” Of The Legislation.

According to Rhett Marques at a candidate forum, “MARQUES: People are hurting right now. The country is, spent four years under the Biden administration with inflation rates going into historic highs. And that is, I am very proud to say that President Trump, with the Working Family Tax Cut, put more money in people's pocket with tax cuts on overtime, tips, and other tax cuts.” [District 1 Candidate Forum, [4/1/26](#)] (VIDEO)

Marques Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill And Applauded The President For Its Passage.

According to Rhett Marques on Alabama AgCast, “MARQUES: Our food supply is national security. And we have got to protect our farmers. And becoming energy dominant will help drive down fuel prices. But also with the fertilizer costs right now that are out of control. There in Muscle Shoals is one of the largest facilities for fertilizer and we're looking to expand that here in Alabama to put hopefully more facilities in, to where we can produce more fertilizer. And that will help drive down costs because it will be more local and we're not buying foreign etc. So I'm excited about this opportunity. And I applaud the president and the working family tax cut for putting in there the billions to go back to the farmers, but also extending the death tax, which I don't really believe in the death tax anyway, I've never understood, I think is a double tax.” [Alabama AgCast, [8/4/26](#)] (AUDIO)

Marques Said Trump Had Done A “Great Job” Passing The One Big Beautiful Bill. According to Rhett Marques on Rightside Media, “Marques: Well, it all comes down to putting more money in the pockets of the people of the state of Alabama. President Trump did a great job passing America's first, excuse me the working families tax cut, the largest tax cut in American history. We did the same thing in Alabama as a state representative. We cut taxes by 1.5 million billion, rather not million, but billion dollars. And we had Alabama's largest tax cut with cutting your grocery tax in half. And so, you know, right now prices are high because of the Obama administration. Inflation was out of control for 40 year highs on inflation. And we are still trying to work down the prices. And, you know, you look at what Wal-Mart did the other day by cutting their retail costs by 15% across the board, it's starting to happen. But it's going to take time. The Biden administration, the four years under the Biden administration, put us well behind. And it's going to take some time to get it fixed. But President Trump is doing that, and I'm proud to go help him continue that and make sure that we continue working for the farmers in our district, our military and our veterans. And so I'm excited. The second congressional district is a great, great place. We have a lot to offer.” [Rightside Media, [8/7/26](#)] (VIDEO)

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](#)]

And Increase Prices On Everyday Items Like Groceries, Gas, And Farm Supplies For Alabamians.

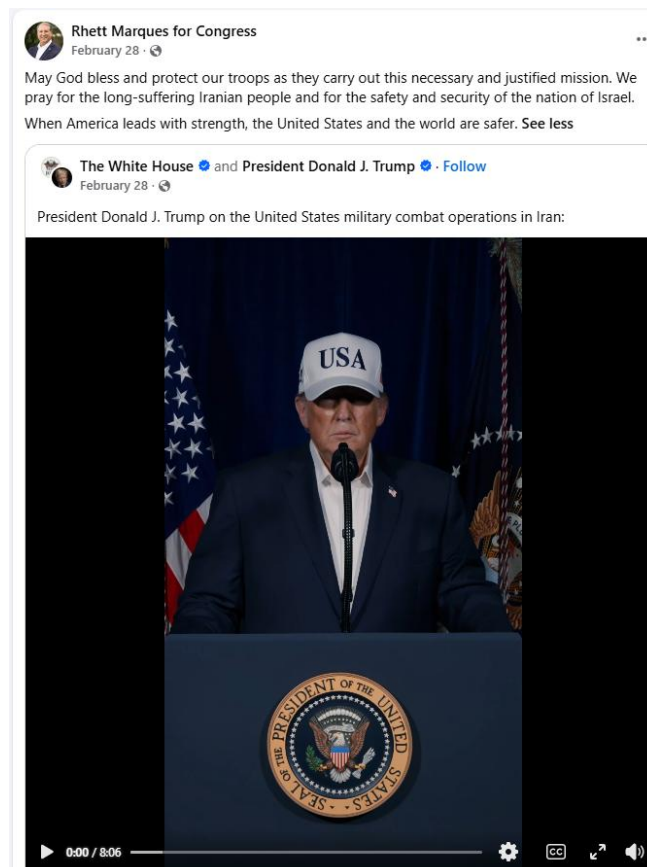
2026: Marques Supported The Iran War, Which Raised Prices For Gas And Groceries

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 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](#)]

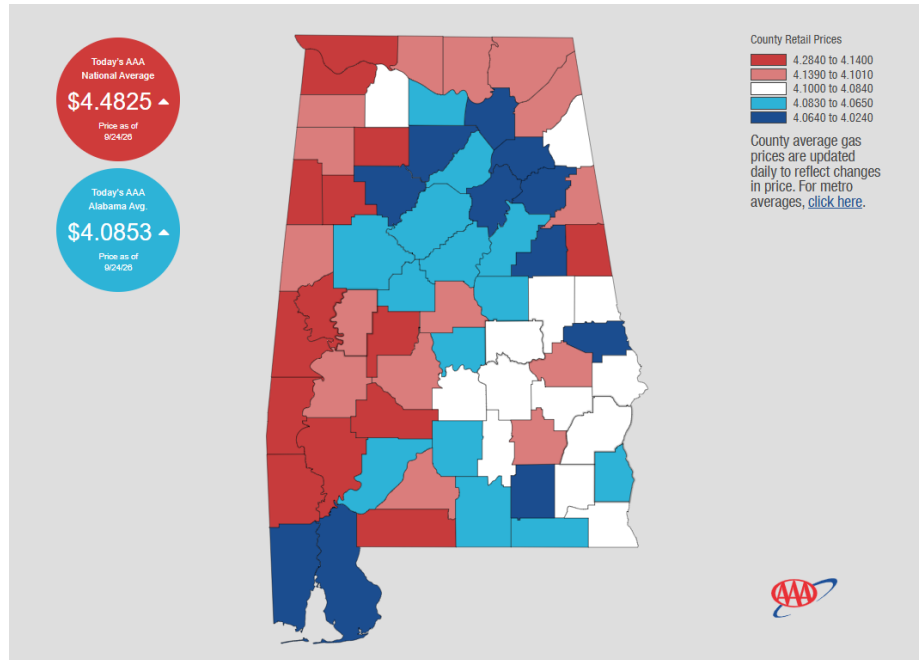


[Rhett Marques for Congress, Facebook, [2/28/26](#)]

The Iran War Raised Gas Prices On American Consumers And Caused “Out Of Control” Inflation, Pushing Average Gas Prices In Alabama To More Than \$4 A Gallon In September 2026 And Raising The Prices Of Goods Like Groceries

September 2026: AAA Average: Average Gas Price In Alabama Reached More Than \$4 A Gallon In Alabama

September 24, 2026: AAA Average: Average Gas Price In Alabama Rose To \$4.08 A Gallon. [AAA Fuel Prices, Alabama, accessed [9/24/26](#)]



[AAA Fuel Prices, Alabama, accessed [9/24/26](#)]

- **September 24, 2026: AAA Average: Average Gas Price In Montgomery Metro Area Rose To \$4.09 A Gallon For Regular And \$6.12 For Diesel.** [AAA Fuel Prices, Alabama, accessed [9/24/26](#)]

Montgomery				
	Regular	Mid	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$4.0922	\$4.5519	\$5.0157	\$6.1234

[AAA Fuel Prices, Alabama, accessed [9/24/26](#)]

- **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](#)]

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](#)]

Marques Praised Trump's Agenda Including His Trade Policy, Which Included Broad Tariffs Which Raised Prices On Farm Equipment For Americans

Marques Praised Trump's Agenda Including His Trade Policy

Marques Praised Trump For Having "Shrunk Our Trade Deficit." "One year ago, the Golden Age of America began. President Trump has secured our border, passed historic tax cuts, ended multiple wars,

shrunk our trade deficit, lowered gas prices, and put Americans first. America is winning again. The best is yet to come.” [Rhett Marques for Alabama, Twitter, [1/20/26](#)]



Rhett Marques for Alabama
@RhettforAlabama



One year ago, the Golden Age of America began. President Trump has secured our border, passed historic tax cuts, ended multiple wars, shrunk our trade deficit, lowered gas prices, and put Americans first.

America is winning again. The best is yet to come.

9:59 AM · Jan 20, 2026 · 67 Views

[Rhett Marques for Alabama, Twitter, [1/20/26](#)]

Marques’s Website: “Alongside President Trump, I Will Fight To Onshore Critical Supply Chains, Drive Up Real Wages For Alabama Families, And Usher In A New Era Of Made In America Excellence.” “For too long, Washington politicians have drowned businesses in overly burdensome regulations. As a small business owner, I understand what it means to sign both sides of a paycheck. Just like I’ve done in the Alabama Legislature, I will slash job-strangling red tape as your Congressman so Alabama Main Streets and the hardworking families that fuel them can thrive. Alongside President Trump, I will fight to onshore critical supply chains, drive up real wages for Alabama families, and usher in a new era of Made in America excellence.” [Rhett For Alabama, accessed [9/24/26](#)]

Marques’ Campaign Website: Marques Said He Would Work Alongside Trump In “Restoring Balance And Giving U.S. Producers The Opportunities They’ve Earned.” ““STRENGTHENING RURAL AMERICA Alabama’s First Congressional District represents the agricultural strength of our state and the coastal communities along the Gulf Coast that export American goods around the world. President Trump means business when it comes to restoring balance and giving U.S. producers the opportunities they’ve earned. I’ll work to keep delivering the fair markets and strong leadership our producers depend on, and invest in broadband and infrastructure to support healthcare, education, and economic opportunity in rural America.” [Rhett For Alabama, accessed [9/24/26](#)]

New York Times: Trump’s Signature Trade Policy Has Been The Application Of Tariffs At A Level “Not Seen In A Century”

New York Times: Trump’s Signature Trade Policy Has Been The Application Of Tariffs At A Level “Not Seen In A Century.” “Over the past year, President Trump carried out what was essentially a grand experiment with the U.S. economy, by raising tariffs to levels not seen in a century. It was an exercise that pitted Mr. Trump, a longtime proponent of tariffs, against business owners who paid the levies and mainstream economists who criticized the plan. America imports trillions of dollars of foreign goods each year, and tariffs are a tax on those purchases. Over the past year, Mr. Trump raised average U.S. tariffs to about 17 percent, the highest level since 1932, in the wake of the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. Mr. Trump’s stated aim was to reinvigorate American industry and bring jobs back to the United States. These new surcharges have had a significant impact. They have caused businesses to speed up, delay and cancel purchases, or find new countries to source products from. [...] One of the most tangible effects of Mr. Trump’s trade policy has been a drastic increase in the revenue the government takes in from tariffs. The United States collected an estimated \$287 billion in customs duties, taxes and fees last year, nearly triple the amount in 2024.” [New York Times, [2/2/26](#)]

U.S. Tariffs On Canada Raised Prices On Farm Equipment For Americans

Farm Progress Headline: “U.S.-Canada Trade Collapse Means Higher Equipment Costs For American Farmers” [Farm Progress, [8/31/26](#)]

Canada Issued Retaliatory Tariffs On U.S. Farm Machinery Components And Agricultural Equipment. “Trade tensions with Canada have boiled over, and farm machinery is getting scalded once again. Negotiations between Washington and Ottawa broke down Aug. 21 before U.S. duties took effect the following day, in part due to last-minute structural demands by U.S. representatives, including restrictions on French language usage and carte blanche veto power to negate Canadian trade agreements with other countries. ‘While we believed, earlier this week, that we were moving toward a mutually beneficial agreement, in recent days, the U.S. proposed new terms that were uneconomic, unfair, and undermined the net benefits to Canada, calling into question the reliability of any deal. In short, they asked too much and offered too little,’ said Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in a statement. Following the collapse, Canada leveled a roughly \$20 billion retaliatory tariff on strategic American sectors effective Sept. 8, including targeted U.S. farm machinery components and agricultural equipment.” [Farm Progress, [8/31/26](#)]

Rhett Marques Message #1 Backup

Rhett Marques collected sales tax from customers and payroll taxes from his employees at his tire shop. But year after year, he had tax liens for failing to pay the sales and/or payroll taxes. He had 10 different tax liens totaling over \$100k. Was Rhett Marques pocketing tax money he collected from his employees and customers until he was forced to cough up their money?

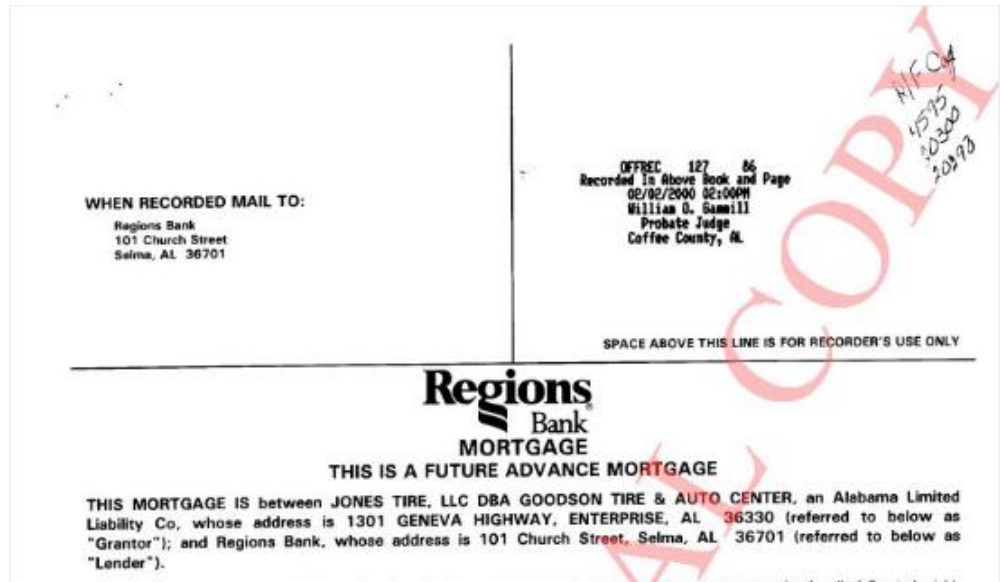
Rhett Marques Collected Sales Tax From Customers And Payroll Taxes From His Employees At His Tire Shop. But Year After Year, He Had Tax Liens For Failing To Pay The Sales And/Or Payroll Taxes.

2000-2023: Marques Was The Owner Of Jones Tire LLC Also Known As Goodson Tire & Auto Center

VIDEO: 2000-2023: Marques Said He Owned Goodson Tire & Auto Center In Enterprise With His Father-In-Law. MARQUES: “Yep, we met at the University of Alabama. Yes, sir. Been married for 31 years, and had our first daughter in Baldwin County. And then, in 2000 an opportunity came about to buy a business in Enterprise.” HOST: “An existing tire business.” MARQUES: “An existing tire business.” HOST: “What’s the name of that business?” MARQUES: “It was Goodson Tire and Auto Center.” HOST: “Okay.” MARQUES: “My father-in-law was in the wholesale tire business, and called me one day. I was an Alpha agent in Mobile. Christina was working at the Bank of Mobile at the time, and my father-in-law called me, said, do you want to go into business together and buy a store in Enterprise? I’ve always.” HOST: “You have some ties to Enterprise?” MARQUES: “None. Zero. No ties to the Enterprise at all. And it was one of those opportunities that I wanted. I’ve always wanted on my own business, and I went into business with my father-in-law at the time, and 24 years later I still had it. We sold it November of ‘23 but Enterprise is a fantastic place to raise a family, just like it was Baldwin County, is a fantastic place for me to grow up. And we, we had that tire store in Enterprise. We had, we raised our daughters in Enterprise, and because of that, I think I’m the unique candidate for this for this district. I know I understand and know my family still lives in Baldwin County.” [Alabama Politics with Steve Flowers,

6:01, [10/28/25](#)] (VIDEO)

- **2000: Jones Tire LLC In Enterprise Did Business As Goodson Tire & Auto Center.** “This mortgage is between Jones Tire, LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center, an Alabama Limited Liability Co, whose address is 1301 Geneva Highway, Enterprise, AL 36330 (referred to below as ‘Grantor’); and Regions Bank, whose address is 101 Church Street, Selma, AL 36701 (referred to below as ‘Lender’). [Coffee County Probate County, Mortgage, Instrument # 14561, recorded [2/2/00](#)]



[Coffee County Probate County, Mortgage, Instrument # 14561, recorded [2/2/00](#)]

2005-2010: Jones Tire LLC Failed To Pay Employment, Unemployment, Withholding, And Sales Tax And Owed More Than \$100,000 In Tax Liens To The IRS And State Of Alabama, One Of Which Was Not Released Until 2016

2005-2010: Jones Tire LLC Failed To Pay Employment, Unemployment, Withholding, And Sales Tax And Owed 10 Tax Liens Totaling More Than \$100,000 To The IRS And State Of Alabama

2005-2010: Jones Tire LLC Failed To Pay Employment, Unemployment, Withholding, And Sales Tax And Owed 10 Tax Liens Totaling More Than \$100,000 To The IRS And State Of Alabama.

According to the Coffee County Probate Court records, Jones Tire LLC failed to pay employment, unemployment, withholding, and sales tax and owed 10 tax liens totaling \$104,504.19 to the IRS and Alabama Department of Revenue. [Coffee County Probate Court, accessed [10/2/26](#)]

2005-2010: Jones Tire LLC Tax Liens From IRS And State Of Alabama							
Inst./ UCC No.	Lien Filing Date	Lien Amount	Tax Period(s)	Tax Type	Grantee	Grantor	Lien Release Date
UCC No. 60717	10/28/05	\$8,026.84	3/31/2005	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC	1/27/06
UCC No.	1/25/06	\$13,226.00	6/30/2005	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC	4/14/06

60740							
UCC No. 60783	5/24/06	\$38,464.8 9	12/31/2002; 9/30/2005; 12/31/2005	940, 941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC	2/23/07
Inst. No. 127576	1/4/07	\$749.96	6/30/2005	Withholdi ng Tax	Alaba ma Dept. of Revenu e	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	4/27/07
Inst. No. 129306	2/12/07	\$8,339.91	5/2005- 6/2005; 8/2005- 12/2005; 2/2006- 3/2006	Sales Tax	Alaba ma Dept. of Revenu e	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	7/20/07
Inst. No. 134736	6/7/07	\$684.41	Qtr ending 12/31/2005	Withholdi ng Tax	Alaba ma Dept. of Revenu e	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	12/21/16
UCC No. 61341	8/2/10	\$20,097.2 8	9/30/2009; 12/31/2009	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC Rhett Marques MGR	8/25/11
UCC No. 61367	9/13/10	\$1,788.19	3/31/2010	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	8/25/11
UCC No. 61386	10/26/10	\$4,204.13	6/30/2010	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	10/10/11
UCC No. 61448	3/14/11	\$8,922.58	9/30/2010	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	9/20/11
	Total:	\$104,504. 19					

[Coffee County Probate Court, accessed [10/2/26](#)]

NOTE: The Coffee Country Probate Court ([101 S. Edwards Street, Enterprise](#)) recorder verified that the UCC liens listed above these are federal tax liens despite the “UCC” coding. The state categorizes and records such liens in the county UCC book with UCC assignment numbers because they are not mortgages or deeds.

- **Employers Were Required To Submit Form 941 On A Quarterly Basis To Report The Federal Income Tax, Social Security Tax, And Medicare Tax Withheld From Their Staff’s Paychecks.**
“As a business owner, you’re responsible for collecting payroll taxes from your employees using Form 941 and paying those taxes to the government. Failing to do so can result in the Internal

Revenue Service (IRS) placing a lien on your business property. In doing so, the government claims a legal right to that property until you pay off your back taxes in full. This can have serious repercussions on your company's credit, finances, and assets. Here's how to avoid or handle a Form 941 tax lien. Form 941 is called the Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Returns. It's the document employers use to report the quarterly federal income tax, Social Security tax, and Medicare tax they withhold from their staff's paychecks, as required by the IRS. They also use this form to pay their share of Social Security or Medicare tax." [Solvable, [12/9/21](#)]

- **The IRS Placed Tax Liens On Businesses That Failed To Submit Form 941 Or Pay Employment Taxes.** "If you do not submit Form 941 or pay employment taxes for your business, the IRS will send you an official notification called a Notice and Demand for Payment stating its intent to put a lien on the company. This means a lien is imminent, and you have 10 days to pay off your back taxes or make arrangements with the IRS to pay it down." [Solvable, [12/9/21](#)]
- **Businesses Were Required To File Form 940 Annually To Compute The Amount Of Unemployment Tax That Must Be Paid On The Federal Level.** "Each year, every business with employees must file Form 940 to compute the amount of unemployment tax that must be paid on the federal level. This payroll tax is based on the first \$7,000 of each employee's wages (including owners of S corporations who receive a salary for work performed for their businesses). This tax is imposed only on the employer; no employee payment or withholding is required." [Paychex, [10/25/24](#)]

Jones Tire Faced More Than \$1,000 In Liens From The State Of Alabama For Unpaid Withholding And Sales Tax Payments

January 2007: The Alabama Department Of Revenue Filed Lien #0000141727 Against Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center In The Amount Of \$749.96 For Tax Type: Withholding. [Coffee County Probate Court, Lien, Instrument #127576, filed [1/4/07](#)]

Recorded In OFFREC BK 390 PG 214, 01/04/2007 01:58:26 PM
William O. Gannell, Probate Judge, Coffee County, AL

STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
Montgomery, Alabama 36132
www.revenue.alabama.gov

G. THOMAS SURTEES
Commissioner

CYNTHIA UNDERWOOD
Assistant Commissioner

LEWIS A. EASTERLY
Secretary

NOTICE OF LIEN FOR TAXES

STATE OF ALABAMA
vs.
JONES TIRE LLC
GOODSON TIRE & AUTO CENTER
1301 GENEVA HWY
ENTERPRISE, AL 36330-9027
TAXPAYER

SSN/EIN: XXXXX9664
LIEN #: 0000141727
AMOUNT OF LIEN: 749.96
FILE/ACCT #: 0000375509
TAX TYPE: WITHHOLDING TAX
TAX PERIOD(S): 06-30-2005

COUNTY: COFFEE

Recording Fee 0.00, TOTAL 0.00

As provided by Sections 40-1-2 and 40-29-20, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, as amended, the Alabama Department of Revenue certifies that the above-named Taxpayer is indebted to the Department of Revenue in the above-specified amount. The State claims a lien upon all property and rights to property belonging to said Taxpayer.

PROBATE JUDGE:
Please record one copy of this tax lien in the real property records. Return one copy with endorsement and recording data to the Department of Revenue, Collection Services Division, at the address stated below.

SECRETARY OF STATE:
Please record one copy of this tax lien in your UCC records. Return one copy with recording data to the Department of Revenue, Collection Services Division, at the address stated below.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
COLLECTION SERVICES DIVISION
P.O. BOX 327820
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36132-7820
TELEPHONE (334)242-1220
FACSIMILE (334)242-8342

n/c

12-28-2006

[Coffee County Probate Court, Lien, Instrument #127576, filed [1/4/07](#)]

February 2007: The Alabama Department Of Revenue Filed Lien #30412 Against Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center In The Amount Of \$8,339.91 For Tax Type: Sales. [Coffee County Probate Court, Lien, Instrument #129306, filed [2/12/07](#)]

Recorded In OFFREC BK 395 PG 171, 02/12/2007 02:55:17 PM
 William O. Galt, Jr., Probate Judge, Coffee County, AL Letter Id: L1534254080

State of Alabama
Department of Revenue
 (www.revenue.alabama.gov)
 50 North Ripley Street
 Montgomery, Alabama 36132

G. THOMAS SURTEES
 Commissioner

CYNTHIA UNDERWOOD
 Assistant Commissioner
 LEWIS A. EASTERLY
 Secretary

February 5, 2007
NOTICE OF LIEN FOR TAXES

STATE OF ALABAMA
 vs.
 JONES TIRE LLC
 DBA GOODSON TIRE & AUTO CENTER
 1301 GENEVA HWY
 ENTERPRISE, AL 36330-9027

SSN/EIN: 91-2019664 Filed with: **COFFEE County**
 Tax Type: Sales Tax
 Tax Period: 5/2005, 6/2005, 8/2005, 9/2005, 10/2005, 11/2005, 12/2005, 2/2006, 3/2006
 Account Number: SLS-1600 06342
 Lien Number: 30412

Amount of Lien: \$8,339.91

As provided by § 40-1-2 and § 40-29-20, et seq., Code of Alabama 1975, the Alabama Department of Revenue certifies that the above-named Taxpayer is indebted to the Department of Revenue in the above amount. The State claims a lien upon all property and rights to property belonging to said Taxpayer.

PROBATE JUDGE: Please record one copy of this tax lien in the real property records. Return one copy with endorsement and recording data to the Department of Revenue, Sales, Use & Business Tax Division, P. O. Box 327720, Montgomery, AL 36132-7720.

SECRETARY OF STATE: Please record this tax lien in your UCC records. Return one copy with recording data to the Department of Revenue, Sales, Use & Business Tax Division, Sales & Use Tax Assessment Unit, 4309 Gordon Persons Building.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
 Myra K. Mouser
 Myra K. Mouser, Assessment Officer
 Sales and Use Tax Assessment Unit
 PO BOX 327720
 Montgomery, AL 36132-7720
 Tele: (334) 242-1340
 Fax: (334) 242-0186

Recording Fee 0.00, TOTAL 0.00

[Coffee County Probate Court, Lien, Instrument #129306, filed [2/12/07](#)]

He Had 10 Different Tax Liens Totaling Over \$100k.

2005-2010: Jones Tire LLC Failed To Pay Employment, Unemployment, Withholding, And Sales Tax And Owed 10 Tax Liens Totaling More Than \$100,000 To The IRS And State Of Alabama

2005-2010: Jones Tire LLC Failed To Pay Employment, Unemployment, Withholding, And Sales Tax And Owed 10 Tax Liens Totaling More Than \$100,000 To The IRS And State Of Alabama.

According to the Coffee County Probate Court records, Jones Tire LLC failed to pay employment, unemployment, withholding, and sales tax and owed 10 tax liens totaling \$104,504.19 to the IRS and Alabama Department of Revenue. [Coffee County Probate Court, accessed [10/2/26](#)]

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UCC	10/28/05	\$8,026.84	3/31/2005	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC	1/27/06

No. 60717							
UCC No. 60740	1/25/06	\$13,226.00	6/30/2005	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC	4/14/06
UCC No. 60783	5/24/06	\$38,464.89	12/31/2002; 9/30/2005; 12/31/2005	940, 941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC	2/23/07
Inst. No. 127576	1/4/07	\$749.96	6/30/2005	Withholdi ng Tax	Alaba ma Dept. of Revenu e	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	4/27/07
Inst. No. 129306	2/12/07	\$8,339.91	5/2005- 6/2005; 8/2005- 12/2005; 2/2006- 3/2006	Sales Tax	Alaba ma Dept. of Revenu e	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	7/20/07
Inst. No. 134736	6/7/07	\$684.41	Qtr ending 12/31/2005	Withholdi ng Tax	Alaba ma Dept. of Revenu e	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	12/21/16
UCC No. 61341	8/2/10	\$20,097.28	9/30/2009; 12/31/2009	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC Rhett Marques MGR	8/25/11
UCC No. 61367	9/13/10	\$1,788.19	3/31/2010	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	8/25/11
UCC No. 61386	10/26/10	\$4,204.13	6/30/2010	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	10/10/11
UCC No. 61448	3/14/11	\$8,922.58	9/30/2010	941	IRS	Jones Tire LLC DBA Goodson Tire & Auto Center	9/20/11
	Total:	\$104,504.19					

[Coffee County Probate Court, accessed [10/2/26](#)]

Was Rhett Marques Pocketing Tax Money He Collected From His Employees And Customers Until He Was Forced To Cough Up Their Money?

Rhetoric.

Rhett Marques Message #2 Backup

Marques backs the Iran war that is sending gas and shipping prices soaring, after he voted to raise gas and diesel taxes himself by 67%. He'll be a vote to send billions more of your tax dollars overseas and jack up costs on everything Americans buy.

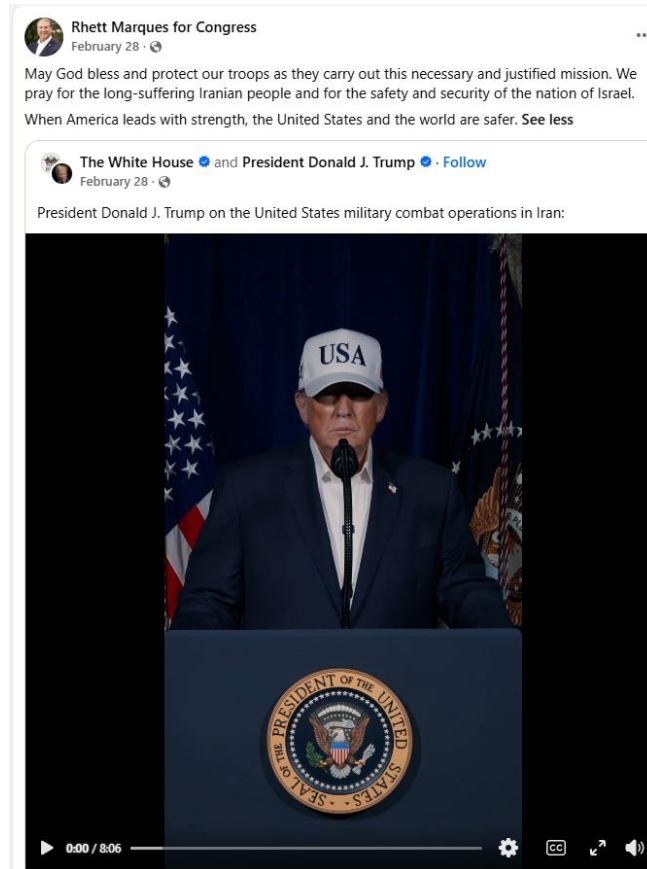
Marques Backs The Iran War That Is Sending Gas And Shipping Prices Soaring,

2026: Marques Supported The Iran War, Which Raised Prices For Gas And Diesel

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 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](#)]

The Iran War Pushed Average Gas Prices In Alabama To More Than \$4 A Gallon In September 2026 And Raising The Prices Of Goods Like Groceries

The Iran War Caused Gas Prices To Increase As The Conflict Disrupted Oil Supplies

Politico: Increases In Fuel Prices “Is 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](#)]

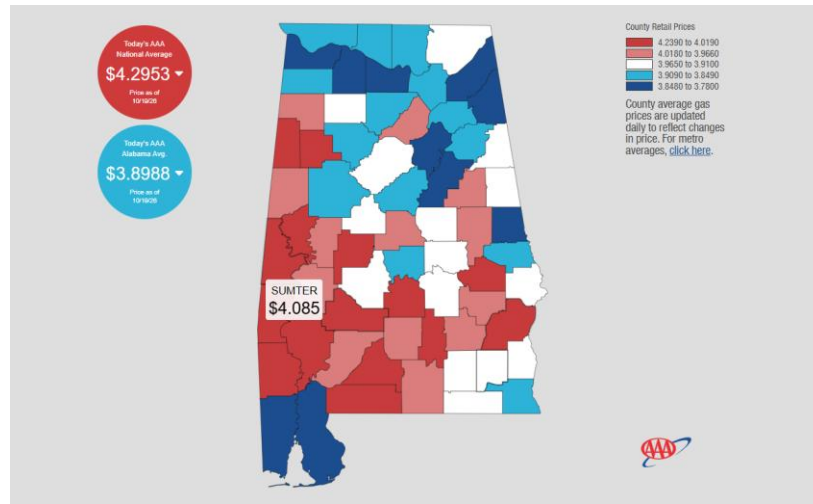
The Iran War Caused Gas Prices To Increase As The Conflict Disrupted Oil Supplies. “As prices are surging across the United States as the fallout from the U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran continues to choke global oil supplies. The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline jumped by 14% in a week to \$3.41 on Saturday, according to data from the AAA motor club.” [Time, [3/7/26](#)]

Time Headline: “Gas Prices Surge In U.S. As Iran War Chokes Global Oil Supply. What You Need To Know.” [Time, [3/7/26](#)]

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

October 2026: AAA Average: Average Gas Price In Alabama Rose To Nearly \$4 A Gallon. [AAA

Fuel Prices, Alabama, accessed [10/19/26](#)



[AAA Fuel Prices, Alabama, accessed [10/19/26](#)]

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

September 2026: Diesel Prices Reached A Record Of Due To The Iran War, Affecting The Cost Of All Goods Including Food And Groceries

September 2026: Diesel Prices Reached A Record Of Due To The Iran War. “The war with Iran has driven diesel prices to an all-time high. The national average is \$6.45 for a gallon of diesel, according to AAA. It's a little cheaper in Colorado at \$6.12 a gallon, but just one year ago, that number was \$3.56. With prices nearly doubling, businesses that rely on diesel are hurting.” [CBS News, [9/18/26](#)]

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: The “Inflationary Impact Of High Diesel” Affected “The Cost Of Everything From Eggs To Sneakers,” And Resulted In Price Increases That Were “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](#)]

After He Voted To Raise Gas And Diesel Taxes Himself By 67%.

2019: Marques' Vote Raised The Alabama Gas Tax By 67%

AL Politics.com Headline: “Harris Hits Marques Over 67% Rise In Alabama Gas Tax” [AL Politics.com, [8/7/26](#)]

AL Politics.Com: “State Records Support The Basic Math Behind Harris’ Claim” That Marques Voted To Raise Alabama’s Gas Tax By 67%. “Hampton Harris says Rhett Marques challenged his campaign's math, but State records show Alabama's gas tax has climbed from 18 to 30 cents Republican congressional candidate Hampton Harris is defending a campaign mailer attacking State Representative Rhett Marques (R-Enterprise) over Alabama's gas tax, saying State records back his claim that the tax has risen 67% since Marques voted for the Rebuild Alabama Act in 2019. The dispute comes just days before Tuesday's Republican special primary for Alabama's 2nd Congressional District, where Harris and Marques are among six GOP candidates seeking the nomination. There will be no runoff, meaning the candidate with the most votes on Aug. 11 will win the Republican nomination. [...]’He told me the 67% figure was wrong and that my campaign was lying. ‘I told him I’d double-check it. So I did. ‘Alabama's gas tax was 18 cents a gallon before that vote. Today it's 30 cents. That's 12 cents more. ‘ $12/18 = 67\%$. ‘A percentage increase is measured against where something started. ‘Simple math.’ State records support the basic math behind Harris' claim.” [AL Politics.com, [8/7/26](#)]

He’ll Be A Vote To Send Billions More Of Your Tax Dollars Overseas

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 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)

House Republicans Passed A \$95 Billion Budget “Focused Mostly On The Iran War”

The Fiscal 2027 Budget Blueprint Provided A \$95 Billion Reconciliation Package Focused Mostly On The Iran War. “The House adopted a GOP-backed budget resolution along party lines Wednesday, taking a critical first step toward passing a \$95 billion reconciliation package focused mostly on the Iran war. The vote on the fiscal 2027 budget blueprint was 216-214, with only two Republicans — Reps.

Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Warren Davidson of Ohio —joining all Democrats in opposition. Independent Kevin Kiley of California, a former Republican, also voted against it.” [Roll Call, [7/22/26](#)]

And Jack Up Costs On Everything Americans Buy.

The Iran War Has Driven Up Costs Across The U.S. Economy

The Iran War Drove Up Costs Across The U.S. Economy Due To The Increased Costs Of Shipping

CNN Headline: “The Iran War Is Making Life More Expensive For Americans” [CNN Business, [4/9/26](#)]

CNN: The War With Iran Drove Up Prices Across The U.S. Economy, Including For Food, Mortgages, Gas, And Credit Cards, As Companies Have Added Surcharges To Cover For Increased Shipping Costs. “The war with Iran has roiled Wall Street, driving up the cost of a mortgage along with auto and credit card loans, making everyday life more expensive for Americans. [...] Average US gas prices topped \$4 in March, according to AAA. Countries worldwide have faced gas price hikes, a direct result of surging crude oil prices. The spike in energy prices has shaken global markets, from stocks to bonds, gold and currencies. This affects both investors and consumers. Increased shipping costs have led to higher food prices in the US and other countries. Produce prices could also be affected by potential fertilizer shortages. Insurers and shipping companies have added US surcharges as diesel prices rise, influencing shipping rates. Flight prices are climbing worldwide as jet fuel spikes. Route changes and security threats, especially in the Middle East, are also affecting the tourism industry.” [CNN Business, [4/9/26](#)]

CNN Business: The War With Iran Has Kept Credit Card Interest Rates High, Making It More Difficult To Afford Routine Purchases That People Put On Credit Cards, Including Groceries. “The war with Iran has roiled Wall Street, driving up the cost of a mortgage along with auto and credit card loans, making everyday life more expensive for Americans. [...] Credit card rates soared in 2022 and 2023, and the average annual rate remains above 19%. Credit card rates have stayed elevated despite the Fed cutting rates a few times across 2024 and 2025. The war with Iran has not directly pushed those card rates higher, but it’s unlikely they’ll come down anytime soon. Traders have dialed back expectations for the Fed to cut interest rates this year, with markets now anticipating the central bank will hold rates steady in the coming months. ‘If the Fed keeps rates where they are and doesn’t cut, then credit card rates will remain elevated, making it more difficult to afford more routine purchases such as groceries or other spending that ends up in credit card balances,’ Stimel said.” [CNN Business, [4/9/26](#)]

The Iran War Caused Gas Prices To Increase As The Conflict Disrupted Oil Supplies

Politico: Increases In Fuel Prices “Is 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](#)]

The Iran War Caused Gas Prices To Increase As The Conflict Disrupted Oil Supplies. “As prices are surging across the United States as the fallout from the U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran continues to choke global oil supplies. The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline jumped by 14% in a week to \$3.41 on Saturday, according to data from the AAA motor club.” [Time, [3/7/26](#)]

Time Headline: “Gas Prices Surge In U.S. As Iran War Chokes Global Oil Supply. What You Need To Know.” [Time, [3/7/26](#)]

June 2026: Since The Iran War Began, Americans Spent An Additional \$300 On Average To Fill Up Their Tanks Of Gas. “The Iran war has cost Americans roughly \$1,000 per household in higher fuel, food and other expenses since the start of the conflict in February, according to an estimate shared last week by Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi. [...] According to Zandi, the biggest war-related expense for Americans has been gasoline, which peaked at \$4.56 a gallon on May 21 before dipping back below \$4 a gallon earlier this month. Since the war began on Feb. 28, Americans have shelled out an additional \$300 on average to fill up their tanks, he found, an estimate that only factors in the higher cost of regular gas.” [CBS News, [6/29/26](#)]

The War In Iran Pushed Up The Price Of Groceries, And U.S. Households Spent An Extra \$200 On Food Costs Since The Iran War Started

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](#)]

June 2026: U.S. Households Spent An Extra \$200 On Groceries Since The Iran War Started. “The Iran war has cost Americans roughly \$1,000 per household in higher fuel, food and other expenses since the start of the conflict in February, according to an estimate shared last week by Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi. [...] Higher diesel costs have also increased the cost of transporting products from farms, factories and seaports, leading to higher retail costs, Zandi said. He estimates the typical U.S. household has spent an extra \$200 on groceries due to higher fuel costs since the start of the war.” [CBS News, [6/29/26](#)]

New York Times: Grocery Prices Climbed At Their Fastest Rate In Four Years As The Effects Of The Iran War Weigh On The U.S. Economy. “Grocery prices climbed at their fastest rate in nearly four years, putting increased pressure on Americans’ wallets at a time when many are already feeling pessimistic about the economy. Prices for groceries spiked in April, according to data released Tuesday by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while broader inflation reached its highest level in nearly three years, as the effects of the war in Iran start to weigh on the U.S. economy.” [New York Times, [5/12/26](#)]

Washington Post: Tomato Prices Soared 15% In April Because Of The Rising Price Of Diesel Caused By Energy Shocks From The Iran War. “Tomato prices soared 15 percent in April compared with a month ago and are up nearly 40 percent in the last year. The red fruit is facing a barrage of hits, including the rising price of diesel caused by energy shocks from the war in Iran. With the Strait of Hormuz still closed, the global oil market is in turmoil, and prices for refined products, including gasoline and diesel, are sharply rising.” [New York Times, [5/12/26](#)]

New York Time Headline: “Prices For These Grocery Items Have Spiked Highest Since The War Began.” [New York Times, [5/12/26](#)]

Rhett Marques Message #3 Backup

Marques supports massive Medicaid cuts that could force already struggling rural hospitals and clinics to close. Several Alabama hospitals are already at risk of shutting their doors, and thanks to the plan Marques supports, families could be left driving even farther to see a doctor or reach an emergency room, losing precious time when they need lifesaving care.

Marques Supports Massive Medicaid Cuts That Could Force Already Struggling Rural Hospitals And Clinics To Close. Several Alabama Hospitals Are Already At Risk Of Shutting Their Doors,

Marques Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill, Applauded Its Passage, And Said He Was “Proud” Of The Legislation

Marques Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill And Said He Was “Proud” Of The Legislation.

According to Rhett Marques at a candidate forum, “MARQUES: People are hurting right now. The country is, spent four years under the Biden administration with inflation rates going into historic highs. And that is, I am very proud to say that President Trump, with the Working Family Tax Cut, put more money in people's pocket with tax cuts on overtime, tips, and other tax cuts.” [District 1 Candidate Forum, [4/1/26](#)] (VIDEO)

Marques Touted The One Big Beautiful Bill And Applauded The President For Its Passage.

According to Rhett Marques on Alabama AgCast, “MARQUES: Our food supply is national security. And we have got to protect our farmers. And becoming energy dominant will help drive down fuel prices. But also with the fertilizer costs right now that are out of control. There in Muscle Shoals is one of the largest facilities for fertilizer and we're looking to expand that here in Alabama to put hopefully more facilities in, to where we can produce more fertilizer. And that will help drive down costs because it will be more local and we're not buying foreign etc. So I'm excited about this opportunity. And I applaud the president and the working family tax cut for putting in there the billions to go back to the farmers, but also extending the death tax, which I don't really believe in the death tax anyway, I've never understood, I think is a double tax.” [Alabama AgCast, [8/4/26](#)] (AUDIO)

Marques Said Trump Had Done A “Great Job” Passing The One Big Beautiful Bill. According to Rhett Marques on Rightside Media, “Marques: Well, it all comes down to putting more money in the pockets of the people of the state of Alabama. President Trump did a great job passing America's first, excuse me the working families tax cut, the largest tax cut in American history. We did the same thing in Alabama as a state representative. We cut taxes by 1.5 million billion, rather not million, but billion dollars. And we had Alabama's largest tax cut with cutting your grocery tax in half. And so, you know, right now prices are high because of the Obama administration. Inflation was out of control for 40 year highs on inflation. And we are still trying to work down the prices. And, you know, you look at what Wal-Mart did the other day by cutting their retail costs by 15% across the board, it's starting to happen. But it's going to take time. The Biden administration, the four years under the Biden administration, put us well behind. And it's going to take some time to get it fixed. But President Trump is doing that, and I'm proud to go help him continue that and make sure that we continue working for the farmers in our district, our military and our veterans. And so I'm excited. The second congressional district is a great, great place. We have a lot to offer.” [Rightside Media, [8/7/26](#)] (VIDEO)

The Federal Spending Plan Cut Crucial Health Resources For Rural Hospitals, 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](#)]

And Thanks To The Plan Marques Supports, Families Could Be Left Driving Even Farther To See A Doctor Or Reach An Emergency Room, Losing Precious Time When They Need Lifesaving Care.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Caused Hospital Cuts, Making Rural Hospitals Less Available To Alabama Families When Alabama Already Ranked Second-Worst In The Country For “Ambulance Deserts”

CNN: “Hospitals Are Making Cuts After ‘Big Beautiful Bill,’ Fueling Democrats’ Midterm Attacks.” [CNN, [3/2/26](#)]

The Guardian: “More Than 300 Rural Hospitals Are At Risk Of Closure Or Cutting Services” Because Of The Big Beautiful Bill’s Medicaid Cuts. “Healthcare providers across the country have closed clinics and hospital wards in the four months since Donald Trump signed into law the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the landmark tax-and-spending legislation that will lead an estimated 10 million people to lose their health insurance. The law is expected to slash federal funding by hundreds of billions of dollars over the coming years, as part of Trump’s campaign pledge to shrink government spending. But it will do so in part by paring back eligibility for Medicaid, the US government’s health insurance

program for low-income people; raising the cost of healthcare under the Affordable Care Act; and defunding some family planning providers who offer abortions.” [The Guardian, [11/20/25](#)]

Three Rural Hospitals In Alabama Were At Risk Of Closing Because Of The OBBB’s Medicaid Cuts. “A national report released this week names three of Alabama’s rural hospitals as being at-risk of closing due to last year’s Medicaid cuts. But officials in the state warn the information is ‘flawed’ and could accelerate their closures.” [AL.com, [4/2/26](#)]

Alabama Ranked Second-Worst In The Country For “Ambulance Deserts, Which Are Areas Outside A 25-Mile Travel Radius Of An Ambulance Service Location. “A 2023 report by the Maine Rural Health Research Center gets cited a lot in news stories about rural healthcare. In it, the researchers identify U.S. “ambulance deserts,” or areas outside a 25-minute travel radius of an ambulance service location. Alabama ranks second-worst in the country, behind North Carolina. Sixty-four of Alabama’s 67 counties have ambulance deserts.” [WaPo, [7/29/26](#)]

Rhett Marques Message #4 Backup

Marques voted to establish an education funding scam that takes nearly \$300 million from local public schools and hands that money to wealthy, elite private schools. His plan gives public tax dollars to people who can already afford private school, while local schools suffer.

Marques Voted To Establish An Education Funding Scam That Takes Nearly \$300 Million From Local Public Schools

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](#)]

And Hands That Money To Wealthy, Elite Private Schools. His Plan Gives Public Tax Dollars To People Who Can Already Afford Private School, While Local Schools Suffer.

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 Alabaman 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

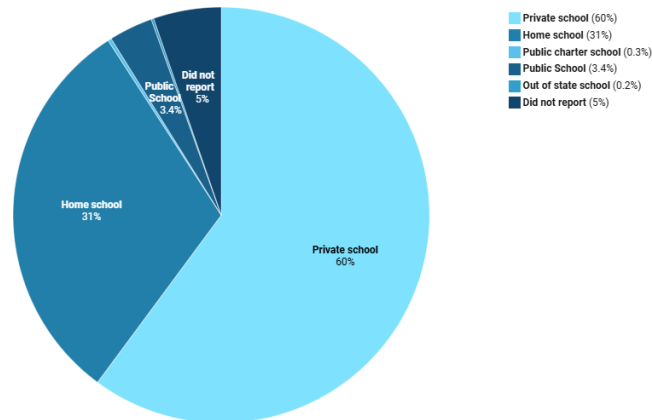
public funds. Among new applicants, one-third currently attend private school, 27% attend public school and 25% are homeschooled.” [Alabama Daily News, [5/26/26](#)]

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 Alabamans 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](#)]

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](#)]

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Rhett Marques Message #5 Backup

Rhett Marques supported tariffs that are crushing farmers and decimating Alabama peanut farmers. Farmers are paying more for fertilizer, equipment, parts and other supplies but have fewer markets to sell their crops. Despite the pain, Marques says he’s proud of this failed approach.

Rhett Marques Supported Tariffs

Marques Praised Trump’s Agenda Including His Trade Policy, Which Included Broad Tariffs

Marques Said He Was “Very Proud” Of Trump’s Trade Policy

Marques Said Americans Had Been “Taken Advantage Of By Other Countries With Higher Tariffs” And Said He Was “Very Proud That The President Has Put His Foot Down And Said No More.” According to Rhett Marques on Alabama AgCast, MARQUES: “For so long, we as Americans have been taken advantage of by other countries with higher tariffs. And I’m, you know, very proud that the president has put his foot down and said no more.” [Alabama AgCast, [8/4/26](#)] (AUDIO)

Marques Praised Trump’s Agenda Including His Trade Policy

Marques Praised Trump For Having “Shrunk Our Trade Deficit.” “One year ago, the Golden Age of America began. President Trump has secured our border, passed historic tax cuts, ended multiple wars, shrunk our trade deficit, lowered gas prices, and put Americans first. America is winning again. The best is yet to come.” [Rhett Marques for Alabama, Twitter, [1/20/26](#)]



Rhett Marques for Alabama 
@RhettforAlabama



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America is winning again. The best is yet to come.

9:59 AM · Jan 20, 2026 · 67 Views

[Rhett Marques for Alabama, Twitter, [1/20/26](#)]

Marques' Campaign Website: Marques Said He Would Work Alongside Trump In "Restoring Balance And Giving U.S. Producers The Opportunities They've Earned." "STRENGTHENING RURAL AMERICA Alabama's First Congressional District represents the agricultural strength of our state and the coastal communities along the Gulf Coast that export American goods around the world. President Trump means business when it comes to restoring balance and giving U.S. producers the opportunities they've earned. I'll work to keep delivering the fair markets and strong leadership our producers depend on, and invest in broadband and infrastructure to support healthcare, education, and economic opportunity in rural America." [Rhett For Alabama, accessed [9/24/26](#)]

New York Times: Trump's Signature Trade Policy Has Been The Application Of Tariffs At A Level "Not Seen In A Century"

New York Times: Trump's Signature Trade Policy Has Been The Application Of Tariffs At A Level "Not Seen In A Century." "Over the past year, President Trump carried out what was essentially a grand experiment with the U.S. economy, by raising tariffs to levels not seen in a century. It was an exercise that pitted Mr. Trump, a longtime proponent of tariffs, against business owners who paid the levies and mainstream economists who criticized the plan. America imports trillions of dollars of foreign goods each year, and tariffs are a tax on those purchases. Over the past year, Mr. Trump raised average U.S. tariffs to about 17 percent, the highest level since 1932, in the wake of the 1930 Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. Mr. Trump's stated aim was to reinvigorate American industry and bring jobs back to the United States. These new surcharges have had a significant impact. They have caused businesses to speed up, delay and cancel purchases, or find new countries to source products from. [...] One of the most tangible effects of Mr. Trump's trade policy has been a drastic increase in the revenue the government takes in from tariffs. The United States collected an estimated \$287 billion in customs duties, taxes and fees last year, nearly triple the amount in 2024." [New York Times, [2/2/26](#)]

That Are Crushing Farmers And Decimating Alabama Peanut Farmers. Farmers Are Paying More For Fertilizer, Equipment, Parts And Other Supplies

Tariffs Were Crushing Alabama Farmers, Including Peanut Farmers

An Alabama Soybean Farmer Said Trump's Tariffs Have Caused Prices To Drop "Below The Cost Of Production" For Farmers Who Were "Already Dealing With Tighter Margins." According to WBRC, "Some Alabama farmers say they're already feeling the sting of President Donald Trump's newly raised tariffs on Chinese imports, now increased to 125%. Jeremy Wilson, a soybean farmer and member of the Alabama Soybean and Corn Association, said farm income is already down 25% since 2022, and

the tariffs are only compounding the strain. ‘Soybeans brought in over \$24 billion last year,’ Wilson said. ‘But prices have now dropped below the cost of production. We can’t forward market. We can’t borrow. And we’re paying more for fertilizer and chemicals.’ Wilson said soybeans, the U.S.’s most exported crop, are particularly vulnerable to trade disruptions. He added that while consumers may not yet feel the effects, farmers are already dealing with tighter margins and limited financing options.” [WBRC, [4/16/25](#)]

An Alabama Farmer Said High Tariffs Would Force Him To Either “Increase Prices Or Sell At A Loss.” According to WAFF, "North Alabama farmers said they are concerned about the impacts that President Donald Trump’s recent tariffs on Mexico and Canada could have on their business. Right now, there are 25 percent tariffs on all Mexican and Canadian imports. One north Alabama farmer said he hopes the trade dispute between the U.S., Canada and Mexico is resolved soon. Larry LouAllen is the owner of LouAllen Farms in Moulton. He said that he is concerned that the tariffs will do more harm than good to his farm and many others. LouAllen grows everything from strawberries, to peaches, and apples. The farm has even been in his family for over 100 years. LouAllen said he uses a lot of peat moss that comes from Western Canada to grow his crops. He said an extended trade war would leave him with only two choices. ‘We would either have to increase prices or sell at a loss,’ said LouAllen. ‘You can’t stay in business selling at a loss.’” [WAFF, [3/6/25](#)]

256 Today HEADLINE: “Alabama Agriculture Exports To China Plunge \$23.9M; No Peanuts Exported This Year” [256 Today, [12/12/25](#)]

2024-2025: Alabama Saw A \$19.2 Million Decrease In Peanut Exports To China. “Alabama’s casualties in the U.S.-China trade war are more than peanuts. However, you might say the state’s peanut crop is brittle. China did not import any peanuts – zero, zilch, nada – from Alabama this year, compared to \$19.2 million during the same period in 2024. Overall, the state saw a 66.3% drop in agricultural exports to China from 2024 to 2025. In dollars, that’s negative \$23,948,000, compared to the same period last year. [...] For most farmers, the payment is a bridge to help next year’s planting expenses than a way to recoup their losses, especially for the state’s peanut farmers.” [256 Today, [12/12/25](#)]

U.S. Tariffs On Canada Raised Prices On Farm Equipment And Parts For American Farmers

Farm Progress Headline: “U.S.-Canada Trade Collapse Means Higher Equipment Costs For American Farmers” [Farm Progress, [8/31/26](#)]

Canada Issued Retaliatory Tariffs On U.S. Farm Machinery Components And Agricultural Equipment. “Trade tensions with Canada have boiled over, and farm machinery is getting scalded once again. Negotiations between Washington and Ottawa broke down Aug. 21 before U.S. duties took effect the following day, in part due to last-minute structural demands by U.S. representatives, including restrictions on French language usage and carte blanche veto power to negate Canadian trade agreements with other countries. ‘While we believed, earlier this week, that we were moving toward a mutually beneficial agreement, in recent days, the U.S. proposed new terms that were uneconomic, unfair, and undermined the net benefits to Canada, calling into question the reliability of any deal. In short, they asked too much and offered too little,’ said Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney in a statement. Following the collapse, Canada leveled a roughly \$20 billion retaliatory tariff on strategic American sectors effective Sept. 8, including targeted U.S. farm machinery components and agricultural equipment.” [Farm Progress, [8/31/26](#)]

Since The War In Iran Began, Nitrogen-Based Fertilizer Prices In Alabama Were “Trending Higher” Than They Were Before The War

Since The War In Iran Began, Nitrogen-Based Fertilizer Prices In Alabama Were “Trending Higher” Than They Were Before The War. According to WVTM 13, "Alabama farmers are facing increased prices for key agricultural inputs due to the war in Iran. ‘Farmers must be proactive in managing their input costs by efficiently using the resources already available and identifying opportunities to reduce unnecessary expenses,’ said Rishi Prasad, an Alabama Extension nutrient management specialist at Auburn University. According to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, other market disruptions, such as conflicts and tariffs, have caused increases in input costs throughout the year. Wendiam Sawadgo, an Alabama Extension agricultural economist at Auburn University, said nitrogen is the major fertilizer nutrient affected by the war in Iran. ‘In Alabama, nitrogen-based fertilizer prices are trending higher compared to both last year and since the war started in late February this year,’ Sawadgo said. ‘This increase may have a sizable effect on producers who have yet to purchase or price fertilizer for this planting season.’ " [WVTM 13, [3/26/26](#)]

But Have Fewer Markets To Sell Their Crops.

Reuters: Retaliatory Tariffs Leave American Farmers With Less Markets To Sell Their Crops

Reuters: Retaliatory Tariffs Leave American Farmers With Less Markets To Sell Their Crops. “Canada and China targeted American products including wheat and poultry with retaliatory levies, while farm groups said U.S. tariffs on imports from Canada would raise fertilizer costs. About 85% of U.S. imports of potash fertilizer come from Canada, according to industry data. Higher costs and lower exports would hit farmers as many are bracing to lose money growing corn and soybeans, the nation's biggest commodity crops. ‘For the third straight year, farmers are losing money on almost every major crop planted,’ said Zippy Duvall, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. ‘Adding even more costs and reducing markets for American agricultural goods could create an economic burden some farmers may not be able to bear,’ Duvall added.” [Reuters, [3/4/25](#)]

Despite The Pain, Marques Says He’s Proud Of This Failed Approach.

Marques Said He Was “Very Proud” Of Trump’s Trade Policy

Marques Said Americans Had Been “Taken Advantage Of By Other Countries With Higher Tariffs” And Said He Was “Very Proud That The President Has Put His Foot Down And Said No More.” According to Rhett Marques on Alabama AgCast, MARQUES: “For so long, we as Americans have been taken advantage of by other countries with higher tariffs. And I'm, you know, very proud that the president has put his foot down and said no more.” [Alabama AgCast, [8/4/26](#)] (AUDIO)