

RESOLUTION 2026-225

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY URGING THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR TO REPEAL THE GAS TAX ESCALATOR AND RESTORE ACCOUNTABILITY TO FUEL TAX INCREASES

WHEREAS, The residents of the State of New Jersey and the Township of Barnegat are burdened by the one of the highest overall tax structures in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the State of New Jersey enacted legislation restructuring the Transportation Trust Fund and implementing an automatic adjustment mechanism commonly referred to as the “gas tax escalator”, and

WHEREAS, the gas tax escalator permits periodic increases in the motor fuels tax without a direct vote of the New Jersey State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, such automatic increases lack transparency and reduce accountability to taxpayers, who bear the financial burden without corresponding legislative oversight; and

WHEREAS, increases in the motor fuels tax raise the cost of commuting, goods, and services, and place additional financial strain on working families, seniors, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, these increased costs also impact municipal operations, including transportation, public works, and service delivery, thereby placing further pressure on local budgets and, ultimately, property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the **New Jersey Property Taxpayers Coalition** has called for the repeal of the gas tax escalator as part of a broader effort to restore fiscal responsibility and taxpayer protections; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a responsibility to advocate for policies that protect their residents from unnecessary and unaccountable tax increases;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey, that it hereby urges the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor to:

1. Repeal the gas tax escalator; and
2. Require that any future increases in the motor fuels tax be subject to a direct vote of the Legislature; and
3. Restore transparency and accountability in the taxation process affecting New Jersey residents.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED those copies of the Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Senate President, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the members of the New Jersey 9th district, and all municipalities within Ocean County.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be made available to the public and shared with other Municipalities as part of a coordinated effort to advocate for meaningful tax reform.

CERTIFICATION

I, Donna M. Manno, Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee of said Township at their regular meeting held in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, NJ on the 4th day of June, 2026.

Donna M. Manno, RMC
Municipal Clerk