



Opinion: Assembly Speaker's call for N.J. gas tax hike is lost in GWB scandal noise

Gas price hike should be on table, Assembly speaker tells newspaper

Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto has revived discussions about a gas tax hike in New Jersey. *(AP File Photo)*

Times of Trenton ~~40~~ **Times of Trenton guest opinion column**

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the political/government environment, the recent announcement by
that he's open to three ideas to raise taxes would have drawn an
stration and established sharply conflicting contexts for the executive-

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Don't look for any of the speaker's suggestions to make it into the governor's budget, though. In fact, there has been renewed speculation that Christie will propose a tax cut despite serious reservations whether the state can afford to absorb the revenue loss a reduction would produce.

He's vetoed the surtax on the wealthy more than once and has been adamant in opposing a gas tax increase. There's no reason to believe he's undergone a change of heart, and his unshakeable anti-tax posture would in all likelihood extend to a water consumption levy as well.

Prieto stopped short of promising action on any tax proposal and left open the question of how aggressively he would pursue legislation providing for any increases.

Shoring up the Transportation Trust Fund — currently futopped s4wte

What a difference a scandal makes.

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