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It's Still the Economy...

Countdown to August 2nd and the Battle in Washington for the Soul of America

Does OBAMA + DEBT = BIAS?



United States President Barack Obama



Congresswoman Shiela Jackson Lee (D-Tx)

Report by Minority News

Congressional Black Caucus member Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas suggested to members of Congress that President Obama is being treated unfairly in debt negotiations because of his race.

As Jackson and many members of the Black community see it, Republican's reluctance to raise the debt ceiling when it has been raised numerous times for other presidents shows the unwarranted flack Obama is receiving.

From the floor of the House of Representatives, Jackson Lee said:

"I do not understand what I think is the maligning and maliciousness [toward] this president. Why is he different?...In the minority community, that is the question that is being raised. Why is this president being treated so dis-

respectfully? Why has the debt limit been raised 60 times? Why did the leader of the Senate continually talk about his job is to bring the president down to make sure he is unelected?...I am particularly sensitive to the fact that only this president — only this one, only this one — has received the kind of attacks and disagreement and inability to work, only this one.... Read between the lines. What is different about this president that should put him in a position that he should not receive the same kind of respectful treatment when it is necessary to raise the debt limit in order to pay our bills, something required by both statute and the 14th amendment?"

Earlier in her speech, Jackson Lee said Obama has been targeted unlike any other president.

"I am particularly sensitive to the fact that only this president — only this one, only this one — has received the kind of attacks and disagreement and inability to work, only this one," said Jackson Lee from the House floor.

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Invest in Jobs Through Disaster Relief & Dredging

By: Congressman Cedric Richmond

The economy has recently hit a stand still. Federal fiscal and monetary stimulus programs are winding down. Banks continue to lend at an anemic rate to small businesses, as loans outstanding to small firms dropped 2.4% in the first quarter. The May unemployment report concluded that the economy added only 54,000 jobs. In light of these developments, it is clear that now is the time to invest in a more sustained, broad based recovery. I have two specific ideas that will help accelerate the slow growth the country has experienced. First, we must respond to emergencies in our districts as they arise. Second, we must invest in dredging by the Army Corps of Engineers to support increased commercial activity on our nation's waterways. By taking these simple steps, we can work to restore our communities and create jobs. Right now, every state in America is under some sort of disaster declaration and is receiving Federal disaster dollars. Every state in America currently has an active Federal Emergency Management Agency office operating in its borders. Congress must respond to the needs of Americans as they arise by investing in disaster recovery. We must immediately invest in the economic revitalization of areas that have been hard hit by the deadly combination of disaster and recession, so families can rebuild and small businesses can create jobs. As our communities rebuild their local economy and infrastructure, the Republican leadership in Congress has a



Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-LA)

heartless message for them: You're on your own. I offered an amendment to the FY 2012 Homeland Security Appropriations bill which would have allowed for immediate emergency funding without draconian budget cuts. Republicans blocked my amendment, but I will continue to fight to ensure that Congress responds expeditiously to the needs of citizens affected by disasters. These investments will contribute to economic revitalization and job creation in these hard hit areas. In addition to providing immediate disaster relief, Congress must invest in dredging our national waterways right away. Dredging is a process which involves the removal of sediment from our rivers, ports and channels. This removal is vitally important because high levels of sediment in waterways will result in increased shipping costs. Dredging is an important job creation tool because our waterways support a large volume of commercial activity in this country. Take the Mississippi River as an example. The Mississippi River and its tributaries run the

distance from New Orleans to New York City—10 times over. Its waterways transport goods to and from 30 states and 2 Canadian provinces. In 2009, \$13.4 Billion of agriculture products—including two-thirds of the grain from the Midwest were exported along the Mississippi. Thousands of jobs are associated with commercial activity along our waterways. Failing to maintain them is a national problem with a national impact. If the federal government does not increase funding for dredging soon, we will face higher prices at stores and reduced income for local businesses. Now more than ever, the Army Corps of Engineers need adequate funding to dredge. It is one of the few things that every single member of the bi-partisan Louisiana Congressional delegation agrees on. Congress has the power to prevent this from happening. I challenge my colleagues to act for the economic good of the entire nation by investing in dredging to facilitate more commercial activity and create jobs.

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

“Read between the lines,” she continued. “What is different about this president that should put him in a position that he should not receive the same kind of respectful treatment of when it is necessary to raise the debt limit in order to pay our bills, something required

by both statute and the 14th amendment?”

Jackson Lee concluded by saying that she hoped someone would step up and say that what appears obvious to her is not in fact true.

“I hope someone will say that what it appears to be is not in

fact accurate,” said Lee. “But historically it seems to be nothing more.”

Jackson Lee finished by saying that she hopes her eyes are wrong — that she hopes the President is not being treated differently because of the color of his skin.

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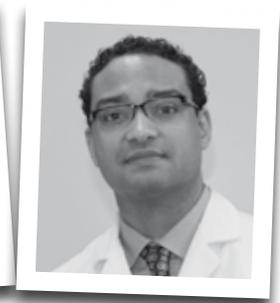
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Education Department To Investigate Abramson Charter School

Due to a report the agency received alleging a sexual incident between two students

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) announced it was launching a full investigation of Abramson Science and Technology Charter School in New Orleans as well as reviewing the agency's monitoring process related to this matter. The investigation, officials said, is due to a report the agency received last night alleging a sexual incident between two students at the school and questioning whether these incidents were appropriately reported to authorities, on top of more than a year of allegations and problems previously identified at the school.

Acting State Superintendent Ollie S. Tyler issued the following



note to members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education via e-mail this afternoon.

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to alert you about a serious issue involving Abramson Science & Technology Charter School, a Type 5 charter school in New Orleans. As you may recall,

Abramson was placed on contract probation last year due to certain legal and contractual issues and was placed under a Corrective Action Plan. Related to these incidents was a possible attempt to bribe an LDOE employee.

Last night we became aware of another alleged incident involving

two elementary school students that was possibly sexual in nature. A former Abramson teacher claims to have reported the incident to school leadership and alleged that no action was taken. In light of this new information, on top of the issues that have been discovered at this school through-

out the past two school years, we are immediately commencing a full investigation of the school and re-evaluating our own monitoring processes within the LDOE and the RSD. We have also referred the alleged bribery to the Inspector General's office for investigation.

Ensuring students' safety is our number-one priority. Therefore, I am recommending that we invoke any and all authority we have under law to prevent this school from opening until all of these matters can be fully investigated.

Abramson, which serves almost 600 students, opened in the 2007-2008 school year and is operated by the non-profit Pelican Educational Foundation.

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trailblazer

Eugene Green

The Business of Giving

by: Edwin Buggage

He is a man who has dedicated his life to the city of his birth and giving back. Eugene Green Jr. is a person who is steeped in the spirit of positivity in his business and civic life. "I am a product of a family that has been involved in community and organizations and they have instilled in me that service to others is the duty of all of us," Continuing he says, "My parents sacrificed and lived lives that I emulate to this day and I am appreciative of some of the opportunities I've had, but to help create opportunities and hope for others is something I have dedicated my life to for I recognize from a young age that there is no greater gift than to give back," says Green of what has defined his life and the influence of his father the late Eugene J. Green Sr. and his mother Jeanne Green who were career educators that gave him an example that giving equals good living.

In his upbringing education was always stressed as Green was a standout student graduating salutatorian for St. Augustine High School in 1976 and later going off to Harvard where he was voted President of the Black Student Association and received the Frederick Douglass Award. Green graduated with a B.A. in Economics and for a time worked in Boston, Massachusetts, but the flavor of his native city left him longing to return to New Orleans. "It was the enjoyment of the city I felt as a youth growing up that brought me back and the family oriented nature of New Orleans that is unlike any other place, and I felt that I wanted to use the skills and education I'd obtained to contribute to the betterment of my city," says Green.

As someone who always tried to live a life concentrating on the positive things life has to offer he says to young people, "Although sometimes negative things may come your way it is important to remain positive and stay focused on what you are trying to achieve and if you do that you will see opportunities become available to you in whatever it is that you are pursuing."

Eugene Green has been a successful businessman for over two decades and served as the head of the Division of Economic Development during Marc Morial's Administration overseeing many projects that added to the city's bottom line. Today even in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina he sees a city ripe for opportunities for small business persons. "New Orleans is a city because of the lack of businesses owned by African-Americans I see opportunities because there are many services that we use and utilize that can be filled by African-American businesses entering into the mix," says Green.

Continuing he says, "This is not a city that has a lot of Fortune 500 companies, but it is a town where small business owners can find a niche." On the importance of entrepreneurs he says, "It is important to note that entrepreneurial success is one of the ingredients that is going to sustain the city's economy moving forward." "And the other is the inclusion of those who had been left out the equation because for the city to rise again all people need to be able to foresee opportunities to participate in the economy to empower themselves."

Spirituality and Family is what keeps Eugene Green rooted and is an important part of his life, "My family and my commitment to my spirituality is what keeps me going, I have a wonderful wife and three amazing children that continue to make me proud," remarks Green. Continuing speaking about his spirituality he says, "I have been a member of the same church for 50 years; Bethany United Methodist Church and they have offered me a place where I have grown in the spirit and know that with having faith anything is possible, and that



the greatest gift you can give is that of service to others."

As the city and the nation has seen a crisis as it relates to urban Black males Green is on the frontlines in helping to eradicate the problems of hopelessness that plague so many youths today. "I work with the Boy Scouts and my church, and I also coach young kids because I recognize that being a positive force for change is important to give young people the tools they need to be successful," says Green. "Sometimes

it may be as simple as encouraging a young person to believe in themselves to overcome their fear of failure and become a success."

Eugene Green is a man who has been a success in education, family, business and his civic activities. He is an example of what the best of New Orleans has to offer, giving selflessly of himself to the betterment of his city. And for his diligent work Data News Weekly is proud to honor him as our Trailblazer for the month of July.

JMJ

Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



at&t

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

New Orleans Urban League Annual Gala

The Urban League Annual Gala, one of the largest and most recognizable fundraisers in New Orleans was held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside on Saturday, July 16th, and Data was There!



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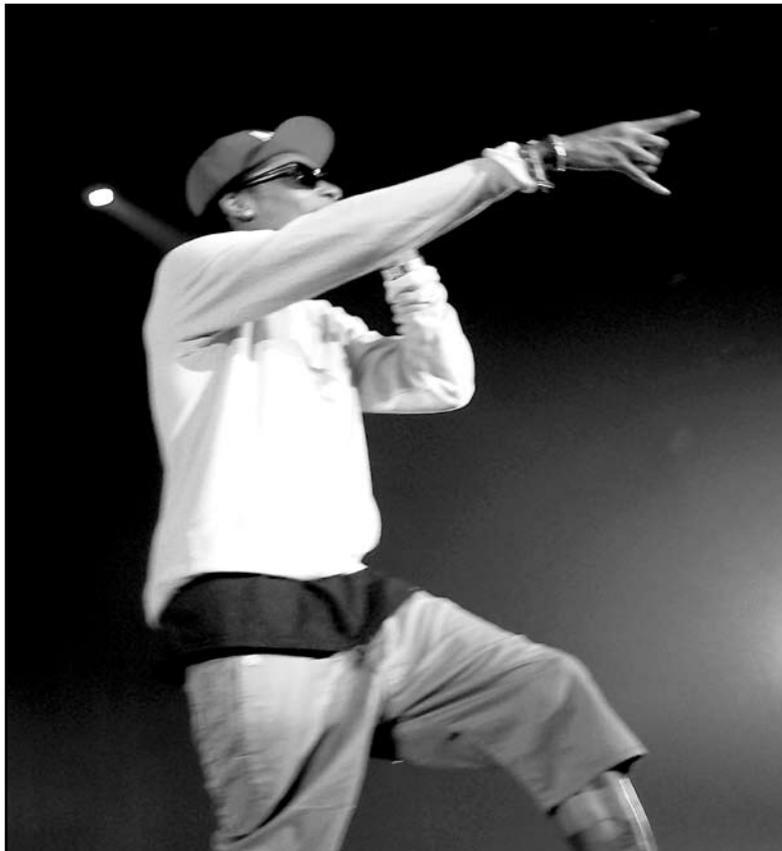
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Wiz Khalifa and the Changing Face of the Music Business

By Edwin Buggage Photos by Corey Anderson

The music industry is fueled by newness, where someone comes from out of nowhere and like a comet as in the vernacular of hip-hop change the game. The most recent addition to this list is Wiz Khalifa, who has ushered in a style of rap that has been coined 'stoner rap' where the 'herbal essence' is what fuels the lyrics. To imagine this new sensation simply think of Snoop Dogg 2.0 blended with Travis Barker of Blink 182 and you have Wiz Khalifa.

As has many of the recent artists to hit pay dirt making an impact in the music industry he did much of the legwork himself via the web. Khalifah became a major underground sensation with several well received mix-tapes that include "Grow Season," "Burn after Rolling" and "Kush and Orange Juice." The success of these releases set the tone for his major



label release, the platinum selling Atlantic release "Rolling Papers." An album that features one of his partners in rhyme, New Orleans own Curren\$y, on the cut "Rooftops," Curren\$y is also poised for big things. He is a former member of Master P's No Limit empire, Lil

Too Short, in addition the female friendly lite-rap "Roll Up" and of course no Khalifa show would be complete without "Black and Yellow" as the beat dropped driving the crowd into a frenzy with its catchy hook and hypnotic beat.

Wiz Khalifa is on top of the mu-



Wayne's Young Money and Rocafella Records Founder Dame Dash Music Group but now this young vet has his own major label release on the horizon recently inking a deal with Warner Brothers Records after building a buzz in much the same way as Khalifa on the web.

Khalifa has climbed the charts on the strength of the monster hit that has catapulted him into the stratosphere; after being on his independent grind he is seeing the fruits of his labor with the runaway success of his lead single and monster hit that has become an anthem. "Black and Yellow" a homage to his hometown of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania that has received some 88 million hits on YouTube.

Recently, this young phenomenon took to the stage at the Lakefront Arena to a capacity crowd of what I would like to call the skittles generation - young people between the ages of 15-25 of different colors coming together as one nation under one infectious groove or in the case beats, rhymes and an undeniable swagger. Khalifa kept the crowd on its feet for the duration of his short but impactful set. Performing his standout songs such as "On My Level" which on the album version features hip hop legend

music game that has changed dramatically in recent years, as the lifespan of many of today's artist as chart toppers are short as a fruit fly. But Khalifa seems to be taking full advantage of his time in the spotlight and expanding his brand. He as many others before him is looking towards film, co-starring in the soon to be released "High School" with Snoop Dogg, the project has been described as a sort of hip-hop take on Cheech and Chong. The film will also have a soundtrack that will feature songs by both Snoop and Khalifa.

His profile has also risen as he has been seen with his girlfriend model Amber Rose who was on-side the stage during his show in New Orleans. Today Khalifah is living a charmed life, atop of the charts and his star on the rise with his eyes on the prize. In a few short years he has come to embody the template of today's artist, taking control of his career, building a buzz, letting the industry come to him and defining success on his own terms. How long will his ride atop the charts last no one knows? But today Khalifa is living the dream where his infectious music has caught ablaze and people are catching a buzz from his smoke filled sounds.



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We thank you for your participation.

Terry Williams Elected as 2012 Big Shot

Congratulations to Terry Williams as he has been elected by the Zulu Club as the 2012 Big Shot.

Terry has been a member of Zulu for nearly ten years. Terry has been riding with Zulu since 1994. His first ride was with the MerryMakers' Krewe. He later became co-captain of that Krewe. He has also ridden with the Big Shot and Province Prince Krewes. He is Co-Chairman of the Zulu Finance Committee and on the Sponsorship and Golf Committee in Zulu.



Senator J.P. Morrell And State Representative Jared Brossett To Co-Host Series Of Town Hall Meetings

Senator J.P. Morrell and State Representative Jared Brossett announced that they would hold a series of joint Town Hall meetings throughout their respective districts in order to provide information on the recent legislative sessions and to solicit questions and comments from their constituents.

Senator Morrell and Representative Brossett have invited the State Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, Homeland Security, Insurance, Revenue, Health and Hospitals, Children and Family Services, Alcohol and Tobacco Control, Motor Vehicles, Environmental Quality, Education, Recovery School District, Wildlife and Fisheries, Fire Marshall and Workforce Commission to make presentations and answer specific questions. OCD-Road Home and HMGP will also have tables to address specific applicant concerns. The offices of Senator Landrieu and Congressmen Scalise and Richmond have also been invited to attend and participate.

For more information and to find scheduled events, please call the offices of Senator J.P. Morrell at 504.284.4794, or Representative Jared Brossett at 504.286.1033, or visit their websites, www.jpMorrell.com or www.jaredbrossett.com.

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Chevrolet Announces 'Table of Brotherhood Project'

Four-city tour celebrates lasting influence of Martin Luther King, Jr.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Chevrolet is sponsoring the "Table of Brotherhood Project," a four-city tour honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. that culminates with the Aug. 28th dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"We admire and respect Dr. King's eternal legacy and all that he represents," said GM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Dan Akerson. "This is an important moment in our nation's history and we hope this memorial will inspire others to turn their own dreams into action".

The dedication will mark the 48th Anniversary of King's "I Have a Dream" speech following tour stops in Atlanta, Memphis, Chicago, and Washington, where diverse community leaders will evoke King's spirit through dialogue on topical social issues.

Tour stops will feature a table designed by Scott Tucker of Raunjiba furniture, where people of all backgrounds and opinions are invited to participate in culturally and socially relevant conversations around King's vision. The discussions will be moderated by



Roland Martin, a CNN News Contributor and Commentator for TV One Cable Network.

The Table of Brotherhood Project is highlighted in a TV ad that aired during the recent BET Awards. The ad features Americans from all walks of life taking their seats at an endless table weaving its way through beaches, schools, streets and restaurants to Washington, D.C. The ad was cre-

ated for Chevrolet by SpikeDDB, its African-American advertising agency of record.

To date, General Motors and the General Motors Foundation are among the largest sponsors of the King Memorial, having donated more than \$10 million to the Washington, D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. Both are committed to raising public

awareness of the Memorial in the nation's capital.

The Memorial will be positioned in a direct line between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials on the National Mall, where King delivered his most famous speech on Aug. 28, 1963. The centerpiece of the Memorial, the "Stone of Hope," will feature a 30-foot likeness of King made of natural elements. It will contain excerpts of

his sermons and public addresses to serve as living testaments of his vision of America. It will be the first memorial on the National Mall to honor someone other than a U.S. President.

"We are deeply grateful to General Motors and the General Motors Foundation for their consistent and steadfast support, which has helped build the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in our nation's capital," said Harry E. Johnson, Sr., President and CEO of the Washington, DC Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. "We look forward to the conversations the Table of Brotherhood project tour will create and are certain they will be a meaningful prelude to the August 28th dedication of our nation's memorial to Dr. King, one of the world's most influential leaders."

The Chevrolet.com/MLK site is the hub for all information related to the Table of Brotherhood Project. The site also has space for visitors to join a virtual Table of Brotherhood conversation by posting thoughts through video and photos around a number of topics inspired by King.

Fuel Economy Focus

John Davis
Special Contributor

The window sticker on a new car contains lots of information besides just the price. For instance, down at the bottom are the all important government fuel economy estimates. But just like the price on the sticker may have little in common with what you actually pay for the car, the mileage estimates may also be far different from real world results. So, why does gas mileage vary so much? Well, the answers are as varied as your mileage.

To find the answers, we de-

vised a simple test: Conduct a fuel economy loop using the same route with two different drivers and driving styles.

Driving our red-bannered test car, MotorWeek's ace test pilot, Henry Kopacz, was asked to demonstrate the kinds of typical driving behaviors that result in poorer fuel economy, while new U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Director, Dennis Smith, agreed to drive our "green" car and offer some tips on improving fuel economy along the way.

Our route contained equal parts along country roads, stop

and go traffic, and freeways. Drivers took note of fuel economy readings after each leg of the trip, and these CarChip data loggers were used to record information about engine load, throttle position, and rpm directly from the cars' On-Board Diagnostics port.

Starting off, we tackled 30 miles of rural two-lane and country roads. The temptation here was to let the Hemi loose a little, and use the AutoStick transmission to pick a lower gear for carving corners. Our route had a number of hills to climb, and there's only so much you can do

to maximize economy here, the most important being to maintain your momentum. Speeding up a little as you approach a hill will help your car get over the top without working too hard.

Of course, one surefire way to save fuel is to make use of a Park&Ride lot like this one, and carpool to work.

Comparing notes, it's clear that Henry's exuberance cost him, as he ended our first leg with an average of 17.6 miles per gallon. Dennis pulled in with an 18.4 MPG figure, a 4% improvement.

Next it was time to hit the

highway, and this is where most of us do our most inefficient driving. Higher speeds and aggressive driving are all highlights of a normal day's commute. Just "going with the flow" these days can mean traveling 10 or 15 miles per hour above the speed limit, and that alone can rob your fuel economy by up to 20%.

Weaving in and out of traffic, not using the highest gear, jumping on and off the throttle, and generally not keeping a steady-

Fuel Economy /
Continued on page 11.

Choosing a More Efficient Vehicle

Thinking about buying a new vehicle? Is fuel economy important to you? Don't know where to start comparing one claim from the next? Perhaps you need some help. You've come to the right place.

www.fueleconomy.gov has gas mileage estimates and more information for 1984-2012 model year cars.

Selecting which vehicle to purchase is the most important fuel economy decision you'll make.

The difference between a car that gets 20 MPG and one that gets 30 MPG amounts to \$913 per year (assuming 15,000 miles of driving annually and a fuel cost of \$3.65).

That's \$4,563 extra in fuel costs over five years!

Use www.fueleconomy.gov's Find and Compare Cars section to find the most fuel efficient vehicle that will meet your needs.

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state speed are also shortcuts to the nearest gas station.

On the highway, our drivers returned a high average MPG of 24.4, and a low of just 17. That's a 43% difference! Here efficient driving works out to be an extra 140 miles of range per 19-gallon tankful.

We then wound up our test with a stretch of stop and go traffic. Again, our mileage was closer, but Henry's aggressive technique still cost him a 2-1/2 MPG penalty.

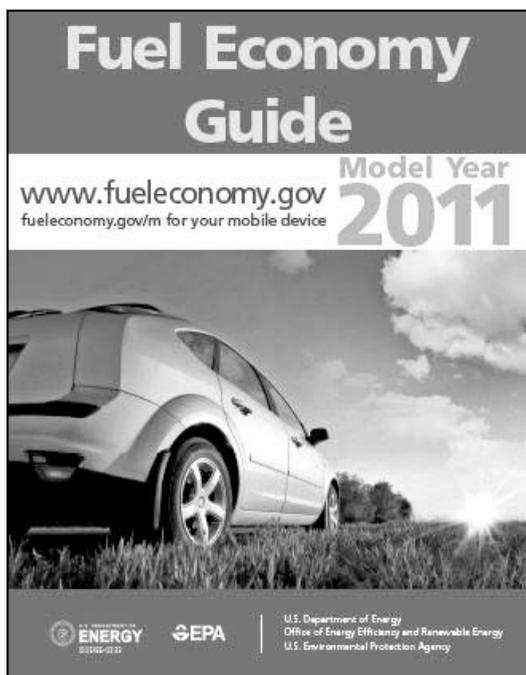
The trick to efficient in-town motoring is to drive smoothly, maintain momentum, avoid quick starts and hard stops, always combine short trips, and plan your route to avoid backtracking, congested areas and hills. And don't rely upon your navigation system to do that for you.

Slow down well in advance of red lights rather than driving right up to them. The fewer times you have to accelerate from a complete stop the better your mileage will be.

So, how did we do overall? How does saving 20% on every fill-up sound? That's more than enough to overcome recent gas price hikes, and it's as simple as changing the way you drive.

No matter where you drive, there are some simple things you can do now to increase your fuel economy: First, check your tire pressure regularly. Just one psi under-inflated can reduce fuel economy by 3%. Second, get the junk out of the trunk. Those golf clubs, mega-size toolkits and bags of traction salt are forcing your engine to work harder than it should. Keep your car tuned up. A well-maintained car will run more efficiently. And finally, commit to driving less often. Carpool to work or school, and consider walking or biking for short trips.

Getting the most economy out of your car just makes sense, and the rewards go way beyond mere dollars and cents. Driving smart is a decision that we all can live with. So, step off the gas, and take a stride towards efficient motoring!



Keep Your Engine Properly Tuned



Fixing a car that is noticeably out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by an average of 4 percent, though results vary based on the kind of repair and how well it is done.

Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve your mileage by as much as 40 percent.

Fuel Economy Benefit: 4%
Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.15/gallon

Keep Tires Properly Inflated

You can improve your gas mileage by up to 3.3 percent by keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressure. Under-inflated tires can lower gas mileage by 0.3 percent for every 1 psi drop in pressure of all four tires. Properly inflated tires are safer and last longer.

The proper tire pressure for your vehicle is usually found on a sticker in the driver's side door jam or the glove box and in your owner's manual. Do not use the maximum pressure printed on the tire's sidewall.

Fuel Economy Benefit: Up to 3%

Equivalent Gasoline Savings: Up to \$0.11/gallon

Use the Recommended Grade of Motor Oil

You can improve your gas mileage by 1-2 percent by using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil. For example, using 10W-30 motor oil in an engine designed to use 5W-30 can lower your gas mileage by 1-2 percent. Using 5W-30 in an engine designed for 5W-20 can lower your gas mileage by 1-1.5

percent. Also, look for motor oil that says "Energy Conserving" on the API performance symbol to be sure it contains friction-reducing additives.

Fuel Economy Benefit: 1-2%
Equivalent Gasoline Savings: \$0.04-\$0.07/gallon

Replacing a Clogged Air Filter on Modern Cars Improves Performance but Not MPG

A new study shows that replacing a clogged air filter on cars with fuel-injected, computer-controlled gasoline engines does not improve fuel economy but it can improve acceleration time by around 6 to 11 percent.

This kind of engine is prevalent on most gasoline cars manufactured from the early 1980s onward.

Tests suggest that replacing a clogged air filter on an older car with a carbureted engine may improve fuel economy 2 to 6 percent under normal replacement conditions or up to 14 percent if the filter is so clogged that it significantly affects drivability.

The effect of a clogged air filter on diesel vehicles will be tested in the near future.

Note: Cost savings are based on an assumed fuel price of \$3.65/gallon.

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