

Making the *Express* Ballot by Storm 7/29/82

A proposed gasoline tax to fund the repair of roads wiped out during the January storm was officially placed on the ballot this Tuesday.

In the last few weeks, all four city councils in the county had approved placing the tax on the November 2 ballot. On Tuesday the County Board of Supervisors added its unanimous approval to letting the people decide on the gas tax.

The tax would add two cents a gallon to the cost of gasoline bought anywhere in the County for the next five years. The

County's share of the money would be earmarked to help for repair of roads damaged in this year's storm.

It was originally believed the County would have to come up with \$5 million of the \$2 million needed to get the done, with the federal government providing the rest of money on a 3-1 matching basis. But the feds have been reluctant to approve all the needed repair projects and the share of the cost could actually go as high as 50%.

Under the provisions of the Jarvis-Gann tax amendment the tax must be approved by two-thirds of the voters to go into effect. Although the gas tax has a broad range of support, a number of the leading opponents of the storm repair property tax that failed in June have indicated they will work against the gas tax.