

Rep. Pastor was 5th most frugal in Congress

Spent less on 2011 office budget than the rest of Arizona's delegation

Rep. Ed Pastor was the fifth lowest spender among all members of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2011 when it came to his office budget, according to an analysis reported recently by USA Today, which used data compiled by the Sunlight Foundation.

For 2011, Pastor spent less than 70 percent of his office budget. He was the most frugal member of Arizona's congressional delegation and the thriftest Democrat in Congress.

Pastor, who annually returns some of his office budget to the U.S. Treasury, is regularly noted

as one of the most frugal members of Congress. In 2004, he was the third lowest spender, and in 2005, he was noted as the fifth

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lowest spender, according to the National Taxpayers Union.

"All taxpayers want government to control spending and to use their money wisely," Pastor said. "I've always taken a frugal approach to spending at home and

at work. And that's become more important these past few years when everyone is having to tighten their belt."

A review of the office budgets for members of Congress, also called Members' Representational Allowance (MRA), showed that Pastor spent 69.4 percent of his MRA, according to USA Today. The MRA covers all office operations including rent, salaries and member travel to and from Washington.

The rest of Arizona's delegation spent between 79.4 percent to 94.3 percent.

Firsthand look at Chase Bank's work in congressional district to create jobs, modify mortgages



Rep. Pastor recently toured the Chase Sky Harbor Operations Center in Phoenix to learn about the financial institution's initiatives to help the community and their employees.

Pastor also met with executives and employees from JPMorgan Chase & Co., which employs 11,000 Arizonans, to learn about the bank's services provided in the district involving job creation, loan modifications to prevent foreclosures, and community outreach.

Pastor reviews renovation of Yuma Crossing Heritage Area, project received federal funding

Rep. Ed Pastor recently visited the Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, a project along the Colorado River that received federal funding to conserve and enhance cultural, historical and geological resources. Pastor sponsored the bill to create the historic area, which was passed by Congress in 2000, and was successful in securing federal funds for the riverfront redevelopment. On the right, Pastor discusses the project's progress with its Executive Director Charles Flynn.



Congressional mobile office sites for 2012

To bring congressional services closer to your neighborhoods, a staff member from Congressman Pastor's Phoenix Office will be at these locations on the dates below from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Adam Diaz Senior Center
4115 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix
July 10, Sept. 11

Desert West Community Center
6501 W. Virginia, Phoenix
May 8

Golden Gate Community Center
1625 N. 39th Ave., Phoenix
June 12, Oct. 9

Marcos de Niza Senior Center
305 W. Pima St., Phoenix
Aug. 14

Glendale Community Center
5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale
May 15, June 19, July 17, Aug. 21, Sept. 18,
Oct. 16

Guadalupe Senior Center
9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe
May 22, June 26, July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25,
Oct. 23

South Mountain Community Center
212 E. Alta Vista, Phoenix
May 8, June 5, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2

How to contact Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs.

Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

Website: www.pastor.house.gov **Emails:** Visit the website to send emails

Washington Office
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0302
202-225-4065

Phoenix District Office
411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-256-0551

Please send postal delivery mail to the Phoenix District Office only

Due to past incidences of anthrax-contaminated mail that was delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to the Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery, resulting in a delay of at least three weeks. Feel free to send mail instead to the Phoenix District Office.

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WASHINGTON REPORT
Budgeting for priorities
May 2012
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WASHINGTON REPORT
Budgeting for priorities

Fourth Congressional District of Arizona

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- Applying for stop-loss payments

May 2012

Budgeting for America's Priorities

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

As Congress rolls up its sleeves to mold a budget that keeps our country focused on our shared priorities of reducing the deficit, creating jobs and boosting our economy, we must continue to protect children, seniors, and working families.

Democrats are working on a budget that takes a balanced approach to making investments to keep our country strong, preserving Medicare, providing tax relief for working families, and protecting the social safety net.

Unfortunately, proposals by the House majority threaten the Medicare guarantee while providing tax breaks to millionaires.

As we work through the process, I will continue to support responsible initiatives that focus on the Fourth Congressional District's priorities while addressing our country's deficit in a responsible way.

In separate news, our nation's health care reform legislation marked its second year anniversary.

Although the Affordable Care Act has been challenged and oral arguments were held before the Supreme Court in April, I'm hopeful that it will remain intact. Thousands of Arizonans have benefited from this legislation and additional provisions that take effect in the future will help even more Americans. By 2014, Americans will be able to buy insurance directly in an Affordable Insurance Exchange if it is not offered by employers. In addition, the law will prohibit insurance companies from refusing to sell coverage or renew policies due to an individual's pre-existing medical condition.

Please take time to read this update on my work in Washington and the district. Feel free to contact my office with your questions.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress

Focusing on transit issues

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor received the Friend of the Decade Award from Friends of Transit at their 10th Annual Conference in Phoenix where they recognized the Congressman's commitment to public transportation. Pastor was instrumental in securing federal funding for the Valley's light rail system and has been a supporter of transportation alternatives such as buses and commuter rail.

In the photo on the left, he discusses transit issues with Yvonne Hunter, Chair of the Friends of Transit Board of Directors; and David Boggs, Executive Director of Valley Metro RPTA.



Health care reform act benefits Arizonans as it marks 2nd year

Message from Congressman Pastor

Listening to the health care reform debates and the challenges to the law that have been made to the U.S. Supreme Court, we must stop and ask, "Can we afford to eliminate a law that has successfully brought health care coverage to some of our most vulnerable Americans?"

Much of the rationale behind the Affordable Care Act is security. Americans need some security and peace of mind knowing that insurance companies will have to play by the rules. The law no longer allows insurance companies to drop people when they are sick, discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions and put barriers up between patients and their doctors. With this law, people don't have to fear losing coverage if they are laid off or switch their jobs.



Pastor strong on retiree issues

Congressman Pastor recently met with members of the Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans, who recognized him for his positive voting record on issues affecting retirees and older Americans. The nonprofit corporation gave Pastor a lifetime score of 99 percent for his strong commitment to protect and preserve programs vital to older Americans.

As we mark the two-year anniversary of this law, we now know that millions of Americans, including Arizonans, are benefiting from its passage. Consider this information from www.Healthcare.gov:

Preventive services are covered with no deductibles or co-pays

In 2011, 637,233 people with Medicare in Arizona received free preventive services such as mammograms and colonoscopies - or a free annual wellness visit with their doctor.

Health care reform has provided new coverage options for young adults

Health plans are now required to allow parents to keep their children under age 26 without job-based coverage on their family's coverage. And thanks to this provision, as of June 2011, 59,653 young adults in Arizona gained insurance coverage as a result of the new health care law.

Health care reform made prescription drugs more affordable for seniors

Thanks to the new health care law, 70,045 people with Medicare in Arizona received a \$250 rebate to help cover the cost of their prescription drugs when they hit the donut hole in 2010. In 2011, 65,729 people with Medicare received a 50 percent discount on

their covered brand-name prescription drugs when they hit the donut hole. This discount resulted in an average savings of \$563 per person, a total of \$36,977,657 in Arizona. By 2020, the law will close the donut hole.

Chronically ill individuals don't need to worry about lifetime limits on health benefits

The law bans insurance companies from imposing lifetime dollar limits on health benefits - freeing cancer patients and individuals suffering from other chronic diseases from having to worry about going without treatment because of their lifetime limits. Already, 2,091,000 residents, including 769,000 women and 570,000 children, are free from worrying about lifetime limits on coverage. The law also restricts the use of annual limits and bans them completely in 2014.

There is a new coverage option for individuals with pre-existing conditions

As of the end of 2011,

1,783 previously uninsured residents of Arizona who were locked out of the coverage system because of a pre-existing condition are now insured through a new Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan that was created under the new health reform law. To learn more about the plan available in Arizona, go to www.pcip.gov and click on "Find your state."

Under the health care reform law, insurance companies also are required to spend more on health care instead of overhead, unreasonable premium increases will be scrutinized, and community health centers receive more funding. In addition, the law gives Arizona and other states support to crack down on fraud and build the health care workforce.

Talk to anyone who has faced a major illness in their family without health insurance and you will hear how the costs can leave a family in financial ruin.

I believe health care should be affordable and accessible to all Americans. It's already working for Arizonans, and I'm hopeful that it will continue to help us meet our health care needs while containing costs and maintaining quality health care standards for generations to come.

Service members have extra time to apply for retroactive stop-loss payments

The application deadline for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) for members of the military has been extended to Oct. 21, 2012.

"Stop loss" is a program where troops were kept in the military involuntarily beyond the end of their service contract during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This meant that soldiers had to stay in the military even after they were eligible to leave. To compensate these troops, the RSLSP program was developed.

Retroactive stop-loss payments provide \$500 for each month/partial month served in stop loss status. Service members, vet-

erans and beneficiaries of service members whose service was involuntarily extended under stop loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009, are eligible to receive payments.

To apply for the payments, eligible members should visit their specific service's website and submit their application online.

More information is available at www.defense.gov/stoploss, or at these phone numbers: **Army**, 877-736-5554; **Navy**, 901-874-4427;

Marine Corps, 877-242-2830; and **Air Force**, 800-525-0102.



FOR STUDENTS

Congressional internships for college credit

Internships in Rep. Ed Pastor's Phoenix District Office offer the full range of experience involved in the day-to-day congressional office, including assisting constituents in resolving problems with federal agencies. Students interested in applying for internships should visit Congressman Pastor's website at www.pastor.house.gov and click on Internships. Internships are unpaid and for college credit only.



Rep. Ed Pastor recognizes Congressional Intern Michele Crick for helping constituents during her semester in the office.

'Making Democracy Work' essay writing contest

The U.S. Capitol Historical Society is holding its first annual Student Essay Contest on the topic of "Making Democracy Work." The contest is open to any and all students in either 6-8 or 9-12 grades. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place for the winners of each group, and the first place prize includes a trip to Washington, D.C. All entries must be postmarked or received no later than June 15, 2012. More information is available by visiting www.uschs.org.



Arthritis Foundation meeting raises awareness



Congressman Ed Pastor's District Director Elisa de la Vara, left, recently met with representatives from the Arizona Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation to discuss programs to raise awareness, promote research, and assist juveniles afflicted with the disease. Elisa met with Alondra Deneffe Medina and her mother Alma Susana Ceceña, of Phoenix, and Allie Avishai, a program director for the foundation.

SB 1070 is unconstitutional, Pastor tells Supreme Court



Congressman Ed Pastor challenges the constitutionality of Arizona's Senate Bill 1070 at a press conference announcing he has joined 67 other members of Congress in filing an amicus brief on the matter with the U.S. Supreme Court. The press conference was held on Capitol Hill on March 27.

Pastor receives top grade on workers' issues scorecard

When it comes to the most important issues for workers, Rep. Ed Pastor demonstrated consistent commitment to America's working families during the first session of the 112th Congress, according to a voting scorecard released by the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union.

Rep. Pastor received an A for his votes on legislation supporting the American Jobs Act, extending Trade Adjustment Assistance and protecting the rights of workers to organize. The scorecard looked at votes that occurred in 2011.

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor and 67 other members of Congress jointly filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in March informing the Justices that Arizona's Senate Bill 1070 is unconstitutional.

The group believes the law violates the Constitution and basic civil rights, and encourages discrimination. In addition, immigration, like foreign policy, is a federal issue and states should not be allowed to create a patchwork of immigration laws, Pastor said.

The Supreme Court was scheduled to hear oral arguments in United States v. Arizona, the first legal challenge to a state anti-immigrant law to reach the Supreme Court, on April 25.

Rep. Raul Grijalva from Arizona also signed onto the friend-of-the-court brief.

SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS No more paper checks next year

Paper Social Security checks are being phased out by the federal government, requiring people to get payments electronically, either through direct deposit or a debit card for those without a bank account.

About 90 percent of people who receive federal benefits already receive them electronically. The rest will have to switch from paper to electronic payment by March 2013.

The switch will affect people who receive Social Security, veterans' benefits, railroad pensions and federal disability payments.

Fraud prevention

IRS increasing scrutiny on tax fraud

Medicare fighting fraud through reworked billing statements

The Internal Revenue Service and Medicare are working to combat fraud to protect citizens.

The Internal Revenue Service has increased its scrutiny of tax returns in search of signs of fraud. Taxpayers should note that this might slow down some tax refunds due to additional screenings and reviews before being released. Overall, the IRS reports it has issued the majority of refunds, whether returns were filed electronically or on paper, in 21 days or less.

Seniors are frequently the target of fraud and in order to combat it, Medicare has revised its billing statements to make it easier to find false charges. The new, more consumer-friendly format, includes large type and explanations of medical services in plain English. The new format is available now at www.mymedicare.gov, and will be in print next year.

Feel free to contact Congressman Pastor's Office for questions about your tax return or Medicare.