



Arizona turns 100

Congressman Pastor's Washington staff marked Feb. 14, 2012, the 100th anniversary of when Arizona became the 48th state to be admitted to the Union. A commemorative centennial flag was displayed on Capitol Hill to mark the occasion.

Pastor strong on environment

Rep. Ed Pastor scored strong on a national environmental scorecard recently that evaluated votes in Congress for 2011.

The League of Conservation Voters, a nonprofit organization, evaluated Pastor's votes on 35 environmental issues and awarded him a 94 percent score for 2011.

The organization, which aims to turn environmental values into national priorities, looked at issues ranging from public health protections to clean energy, and land and

wildlife conservation.

Pastor said he has made it a priority to protect the environment and his constituents' well-being when considering legislation.

Some of the legislation where Pastor took a "pro-environment" position include bills affecting land and water conservation, clean water safeguards, and hard rock mining.

Pastor regularly scores high on his environmental votes, and the League gave him a 100 percent score during the 111th Congress.

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
April 10, 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
March 13, Aug. 14

Glendale Community Center
5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale
March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, July 17,
Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 16

Guadalupe Senior Center
9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe
Feb. 28, March 27, April 24, May 22, June 26,
July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25, Oct. 23

South Mountain Community Center
212 E. Alta Vista, Phoenix
March 6, April 2, 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.

Clip and Save

Rep. Pastor meets with Arizona Bridge to Independent Living

Congressman Ed Pastor met with members of Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL) in the Washington Office recently to discuss health care and independent living legislation.

ABIL empowers people with disabilities and offers services to facilitate implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) throughout Arizona. It opened a new sports and fitness center this year at 5031 E. Washington St., Phoenix.

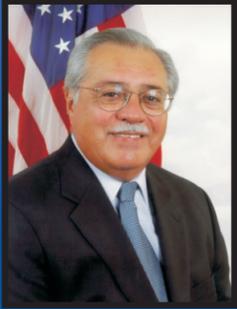


Rep. Ed Pastor met with members of Arizona Bridge to Independent Living in Washington to discuss health care and independent living legislation.

Congressman visits Guadalupe

Congressman Ed Pastor recently joined residents and elected officials of the Town of Guadalupe to mark the municipality's Incorporation Day. During his visit, he spoke to business owners and residents about his work in Congress and federal legislation that impacts the district.

Congressman Pastor recently met with business owner Sergio Miranda, owner of Letty's in Guadalupe, and talked about issues in the district.

CONGRESSMAN
ED PASTOR
WASHINGTON REPORT
Rebuilding our economy

Fourth Congressional District of Arizona

March 2012

INSIDE

- President's proposal to help homeowners
- Free tax preparation assistance sites

Congress focusing on jobs, housing, economy

Dear Fellow Arizonans,
Jobs. Housing. The economy.

These are issues at the forefront of Americans' minds and they continue to be the challenges we face in Congress every day. Democrats have been focused on taking immediate action to extend the payroll tax cut, extend unemployment benefits, and ensure that seniors continue to see the doctor of their choice.

While there have been recent reports of positive job growth and the unemployment rate fell to 8.3 percent in January, our recovery remains fragile.

American families need stability, and job creation can help provide that certainty. As your representative, I've been supportive of legislation that spurs investment in small businesses, invests in college aid to make education more affordable and puts money into innovative research to keep our nation competitive.

In addition, the President has introduced a plan to help underwater homeowners refinance that could save them thousands of dollars with today's low interest rates. I hope Congress will support this plan and pass it quickly.

I will continue to focus on legislation that will

help our middle income families and protect Social Security and Medicare for our seniors. I have also been working with cabinet members such as Labor Sec. Hilda Solis to bring attention to the local needs of our district.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a \$2.9 million grant that will help



Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with Phoenix City Manager David Cavazos; then Mayor-Elect Greg Stanton; Ophelia Basgal, Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and then-Mayor Phil Gordon, to announce a federal grant to promote transit-oriented development along the light rail line.

the city of Phoenix plan development along the light rail line that will enhance safe, convenient access to quality, affordable housing; well-paying jobs; education and training programs; as well as fresh food and health care services. The "Reinvent Phoenix" project is an opportunity to create a desirable new model for urban living that improves our quality of life.

You will find more information about my work in Congress and the district in this newsletter. Please contact my office with any questions. Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Congressman Ed Pastor

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.
This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.

602-256-0551
411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
www.pastor.house.gov

PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE
411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-256-0551

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2465 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4065

WASHINGTON REPORT
Rebuilding our economy
March 2012

Ed Pastor
Congressman

411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
Phoenix, AZ 85004
Congressman Ed Pastor

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

M.C. Presorted Standard

Phoenix receives federal grant to promote development along light rail line

The city of Phoenix has been awarded a \$2.9 million grant to promote urban development along the light rail line, Rep. Ed Pastor recently announced, along with representatives from the city and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“The federal government believes in Phoenix and its ability to collaborate with local neighborhoods and create new visions for housing and transportation that improve constituents’ quality of life,” Pastor said.

The HUD Sustainable Communities Grant to the city’s Planning and Development Department will fund the Reinvent Phoenix Program. This project includes area research, short- and long-range planning, community engagement and development incentives to set the foundation that will encourage commercial and housing development along the light rail.

The program will provide incentives for transit-oriented development along the light rail with the goal of providing residents with safe, convenient access to quality and affordable housing, jobs that pay well, education and training programs, health care services, and fresh food.



President’s refinancing proposal would help underwater homeowners

President Obama has introduced a plan to help responsible homeowners who are underwater in their mortgages, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor. If approved by Congress, the plan would allow homeowners to save thousands of dollars by refinancing at today’s low interest rates.

According to the White House, the proposal could save eligible homeowners an average of \$3,000 per year. The proposal allows borrowers with loans insured by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac (Government Sponsored Entities, or GSEs) to access streamlined financing through the GSEs. Borrowers with standard non-GSE loans would have access to refinancing through a new program



run by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The President proposes that borrowers with loans not currently guaranteed by the GSEs can qualify if they meet the following criteria:

- Current on their mortgage (have not missed more than one payment in the past 6 months).
- A minimum FICO credit score of 580.
- A loan that is no larger than the current FHA conforming loan limits in their area (ranges from \$271,050—\$729,750).
- The refinanced loan is for a single family, owner-occupied principal residence.

Meeting local health care needs

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with Drs. John Nigro and Brigham Willis from Phoenix Children’s Hospital to discuss the hospital’s goals in addressing the Valley’s health care demands. Phoenix Children’s is in the midst of a major expansion to meet the needs of the Southwest’s rapid population growth. Pastor has helped the hospital secure federal funds to enhance its electronic medical records, CAT scan technology and the development and construction of a green central energy plant.



Labor Secretary, Congressman Pastor’s office hold employment roundtable

Labor Sec. Hilda Solis and Congressman Ed Pastor’s Office recently organized a roundtable where community leaders and constituents spoke about the need for Congress to extend federal unemployment insurance.

Individuals spoke about their personal experiences and how unemployment insurance helped with basic needs such as food and gas.

“Many individuals are unemployed through no fault of their own and unemployment benefits are a safety net that help them stay above water,” Pastor said.



Labor Sec. Hilda Solis, with her back to the camera, listens to stakeholders’ concerns about employment issues at a roundtable organized by Rep. Pastor’s Office and held at the ASU Cronkite School in Phoenix.



Congressman Pastor’s Office recently organized an employment event where Labor Sec. Hilda Solis, third from the left, discussed the issue with State Sen. Richard Miranda, Rep. Anna Tovar and Avondale Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers.

Helping homeless veterans Providing resources, information at 2012 Arizona StandDown



Rep. Ed Pastor’s Phoenix District Office reached out to homeless veterans with information about congressional resources during the Arizona StandDown in Phoenix.

The StandDown is the state’s largest outreach event for homeless veterans and provides housing and employment help, clothing, shelter, meals and shower facilities.

On the left, Congressional Intern Liam Izar discusses constituent services with a veteran during the Arizona StandDown.

Pastor votes for STOCK Act that bans insider trading by Congress members

Rep. Ed Pastor voted in support of the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge, or STOCK Act, which was passed in the House of Representatives on Feb. 9.

The bill is designed to keep members of Congress and their staffs from benefiting financially from insider information they learn as part of their jobs.

“Insider trading is illegal, and Congress must be held accountable to the same laws as everyone else,” Pastor said.

Mortgage settlement may help affected homeowners

Homeowners hurt by deceptive mortgage practices and foreclosure abuses will get some relief through a \$25 billion settlement reached between five of the nation’s largest banks and federal and state governments.

Arizona, one of the hardest hit states in the foreclosure crisis, is expected to receive \$1.6 billion as its portion of the agreement. Lenders in the settlement are tasked with helping affected homeowners with principal reductions, reducing interest payments and issuing up to \$2,000 to homeowners who had their homes foreclosed upon between Jan. 1, 2008, and Dec. 31, 2011.

The banks who are parties to the settlement are listed below with their contact information:

Ally/formerly GMAC: 800-766-4622

Bank of America: 877-488-7814

Citi: 866-272-4749

JPMorgan Chase: 866-372-6901

Wells Fargo: 800-288-3212

Information is also available on this website:

www.nationalmortgagesettlement.com.

The logistics of the settlement are being worked out and during the next six to nine months, the settlement administrator, attorneys general and the mortgage servicers will work to identify homeowners eligible for immediate cash payments, principal reductions and refinancing.

However, Rep. Ed Pastor urged homeowners to take the initiative and contact the appropriate banks if they believe they are owed relief.

The settlement does not affect homeowners whose mortgages have been sold to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. For these types of loans, homeowners may call 1-888-995-4673 for mortgage and foreclosure programs that might be helpful.

Free tax preparation sites in Phoenix for 2012

Maricopa Workforce Connection	1840 N. 95th Ave., Suite 160	Tues., Thurs. 8-11 a.m.; Weds. 1-4 p.m. Call for an appointment: 602-372-4200
John F. Long Family Services Center	3454 N. 51st Ave.	Mon. 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Tues., Weds. 4-7:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-Noon
Rehoboth Saints Center	2315 N. 35th Ave.	Mon. 4-8 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
First Credit Union	803 E. Devonshire	Tues. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Inter-Tribal Council	2214 N. Central Ave., Suite 100	Sat. 8 a.m.-Noon
Garfield Safe Haven	1029 E. Garfield St.	Weds. 6-8 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Emmett McLoughlin Training Center	1150 S. Seventh Ave.	Sat. 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
South Mountain Community College	7050 S. 24th St.	Weds. 6-8 p.m.
Fisher Chapel AME Zion Church	1607 E. South Mountain Ave.	Thurs. 6-8 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Goodwill	417 N. 16th St.	Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. through March 10
Catholic Charities	1825 W. Northern Ave.	Weds. 4-8 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Call for an appointment: 602-749-4464

For more locations, visit www.irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/ or phone 1-800-906-9887.

Constituents encouraged to use IRS’ Free File

The IRS is encouraging constituents to do their federal taxes for free with Free File.

If your adjusted gross income was \$57,000 or less in 2011, you will find at least one tax software product to use at www.irs.gov/freefile. An online tool allows you to give a little information about yourself, then guides you to the software for which you are eligible.



For people who make more than \$57,000, the IRS offers Free File Fillable Forms on the same website. It provides no software assistance but performs basic math calculations.