



CONGRESSMAN

Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON REPORT

Facing Valley's challenges

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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

May 2007

110th Congress facing America's, Valley's challenges with accountability

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

Now that Congress is under new leadership and moving in a new direction, we are making progress on challenges that have gone unaddressed for too long. In the coming months, our agenda includes action to enhance our national security, improve our economy, care for our families with an emphasis on children and seniors, preserve our planet and restore accountability.

Fiscally responsible budget

These goals are all reflected in the recently passed House Budget Resolution, H.Con.Res. 99, which reverses years of harmful cuts to critical domestic programs. Furthermore, by taking a deliberative and balanced approach, this budget is the first step to restoring fiscal responsibility and ensuring a prosperous future for all Americans.

Issues in district

During the April district work period, I spent two weeks in the Valley meeting with a cross-section of constituents, organizations, educators, businesses and elected officials who shared their concerns with me. These issues ranged from edu-

cation shortfalls to immigration reform legislation. I will be using this information to guide me as Congress moves forward with an exciting and challenging agenda in this session.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



New Sky Harbor tower opens

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor joins air traffic controllers at Phoenix International Sky Harbor Airport at the dedication of the new Phoenix Airport Traffic Control Tower/Terminal Radar Approach Control.

House budget addresses Arizona's needs

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008 that would restore fiscal responsibility and accountability to Washington, strengthen our national defense, and invest in the next generation and America's prosperity. The budget proposes:

Strengthening national defense, honoring troops and veterans

- To strengthen our national defense and honor promises to Arizona's brave troops and veterans. It includes the largest veterans' budget increase in American history - \$3.5 billion more this year for veterans' health care than the president's budget.

The additional resources are needed to provide excellent health care for new veterans, repair Veterans Administration health care facilities, make needed investments in veterans' mental health care and traumatic brain injury care, and speed up and improve the accuracy of disability claims processing. In Arizona, these improvements are needed to ensure that our 555,224 veterans receive care worthy of their sacrifice. It is also critical for the 22,616 brave Arizonans who have served their country in Afghanistan and Iraq since September 2001.

The budget also would provide six percent more in areas that deal with homeland security, rejecting the cuts to vital first responder and terrorism prevention programs included in the president's budget.

Education a priority

- To provide more for public school education, special education and Head Start.
- To make a sustained commitment to research and development and education to keep America competitive.



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with Gov. Janet Napolitano and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in Phoenix to discuss federal priorities for Arizonans.

- To support middle-class tax cuts and protect middle-income families from a tax increase by setting up a reserve fund for a long-term fix for the alternative minimum tax (AMT). In 2004, 30,000 Arizona families were subject to the AMT. If nothing is changed, an estimated 226,000 Arizona families will be subject to the AMT in 2007.

Help for small businesses

- To help small businesses by rejecting the president's proposal to cut the Small Business Administration by 26 percent from last year's request.

- To increase funding for State Children's Health Insurance Program, reducing the number of uninsured kids across America. In Arizona, 270,870 children have no health insurance.

Protects Medicare program funds

- To reject the Administration's proposal to cut Medicare funding by \$307 million for Arizona hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and home health care providers.



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor recently discussed our national defense with Air Force Academy representatives and students at his Military Academy Day in Phoenix.

Pastor: Children's education comes first

"Whenever I speak to students, I impress upon them the value of education. As I see it, education is the cornerstone to personal suc-



Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with members of the Carl Hayden High School Robotics Team and discussed the importance of higher education. They met at a Cesar Chavez event at the state Capitol.

cess, and the cornerstone to America's future. As your Congressman, I continue to make education a priority and support the majority's budget proposal that would provide substantially more funding over the President's budget for education, including funding for No Child Left Behind.

"The Democratic budget proposal would assist Arizona's 967,300 children enrolled in public schools by providing nearly \$8 billion more in 2008 and 11 percent more during the next five years for education and training programs than requested by the President.

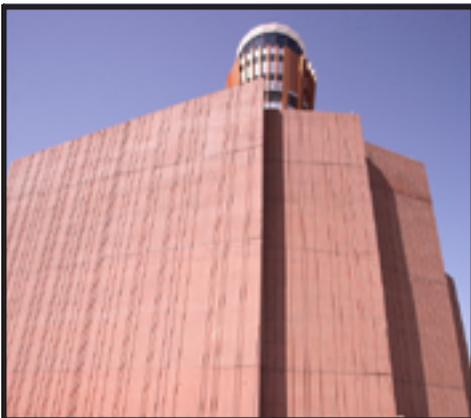
"This would increase resources for No Child Left Behind, the special education program and Head Start - three critical programs which the President's budget cut.

"Under this proposal, I believe we can give our children greater opportunity to succeed."

Pastor named education hero

Congressman Ed Pastor was recently named the 2007 Hero of Education by the Maricopa Community Colleges and its Foundation for his commitment in Congress to supporting those who desire to achieve a higher education and career training skills. Pastor, through his work in Congress, has helped secure funding for the community college district to help expand a dropout prevention-college going program, create a National Center for Teacher Education, and a bilingual nursing program.

In the photo on the right, Pastor speaks to pupils in Antonio Perez's class at the Ed and Verma Pastor Elementary School in Phoenix. Pastor explained his work in Congress to the students.



The new FAA tower stands 324 feet high.

New airport tower begins operations

Rep. Ed Pastor recently helped dedicate the Federal Aviation Administration's new Phoenix Airport Traffic Control Tower/Terminal Radar Approach Control. Pastor helped secure federal funding to build the new \$89 million structure at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. The tower will help Phoenix address its growing air traffic needs in a safe and efficient manner, and gives controllers an unobstructed view of the entire airfield.

The control tower cab is near the top of the 324-foot facility. It has work stations for 11 air traffic controllers. It's equipped with the FAA's newest automation system, Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS), which is capable of tracking up to 1,350 airborne aircraft simultaneously.

Rep. Pastor's citizenship day helps dozens

More than 100 permanent legal residents received assistance in applying for U.S. citizenship recently at Congressman Pastor's Citizenship Day workshop.

During this one-day event, trained volunteers who regularly provide complimentary assistance in the community help legal residents in filling out their citizenship applications.

Volunteers from Arizona's Korean Community helped legal residents fill out their citizenship applications at Congressman Pastor's Citizenship Day event.



Rep. Pastor has held the Citizenship workshops for years to help people pursue the dream of American citizenship. Many times, individuals avoid completing the process because they are intimidated by the paperwork, he said. The volunteers help ease the process for them.

The service is free. For more information about future Citizenship Day events, please contact Congressman Pastor's Office at 602-256-0551.

U.S. citizenship fees expected to increase this year

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, which processes applications for citizenship and permanent legal residency, among others, has proposed increasing its fees this year to help cover costs.

Congressman Pastor has expressed concerns about the proposed fee hikes, which would go up an average of 66 percent.

"I want the USCIS to have the resources it needs to carry out its mission, but we want to encourage immigrants to become U.S. citizens rather than putting up barriers to the process," he said.

To become a U.S. citizen, a person must:

- Have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for at least five years, or have been married to a U.S. citizen for at least three years and been a legal permanent resident for at least three years.

- Be at least 18 years old.

- Be able to speak, read and write in English.

- Have good moral character, with no criminal problems during the past five years.

- Pay a \$400 fee to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (Fee is expected to increase this year).



U.S. citizenship application (N-400) available online

www.uscis.gov

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service conveniently provides many of its immigration benefit applications and petitions online under "Immigration Forms."



Pastor discusses work in Congress helping businesses

Congressman Pastor recently met with employees and managers at a Home Depot store in Phoenix to discuss his work on legislation important to businesses. He also discussed Home Depot's efforts to address environmental concerns.

Rep. Pastor votes for new direction in Iraq

Rep. Ed Pastor has issued the following statement regarding Iraq:

“In April, the majority in Congress voted to change the course in Iraq as the American public has demanded – requiring accountability from the Administration and the Iraqi government. I supported this measure because after four years of the President’s stay-the-course strategy in Iraq, we can no longer support failed policies.

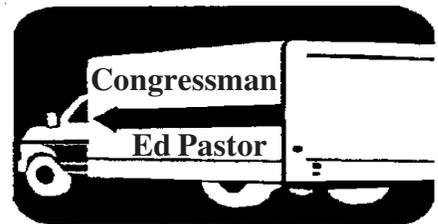
“Congress took action to demand accountability. The funding bill approved by Congress requires the Iraqi government to meet key security, political and economic benchmarks endorsed by the President, and includes a timeline for re-deployment consistent with the recommendations of the bipartisan Iraq Study

Group. The bill supports our troops, including additional funding for ambush-resistant vehicles, military healthcare, military housing, and a Strategic Reserve Readiness Fund. The measure also supports our veterans, providing \$1.8 billion not requested by the President to begin meeting the unmet health needs of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Unfortunately, President Bush vetoed the legislation because he is apparently unwilling to accept any limitations on the U.S. commitment in Iraq. By failing to sign the proposal, the President is needlessly delaying the approval of much-needed resources for our troops and ignoring the will of the American people.”

Congressional Mobile Office is in your neighborhood to assist you

To better meet the needs of the constituents in his district, U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor will have a representative from his office at these Mobile Office locations each month to assist with federal matters:



GUADALUPE

Fourth Tuesday of every month, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

GUADALUPE SENIOR CENTER, 9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui

SOUTH PHOENIX

First Wednesday of every month, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CENTER, 212 E. Alta Vista

WEST PHOENIX

Second Tuesday of June, August, October and December
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

GOLDEN GATE COMMUNITY CENTER, 1625 N. 39th Ave.

Second Tuesday of May, July, September and November
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

DESERT WEST COMMUNITY CENTER, 6501 W. Virginia

GLENDALE

Third Thursday of every month, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

GLENDALE COMMUNITY CENTER, 5401 W. Ocotillo



Eddie and Annette Ayala joined their son Justin Ayala and Mrs. Verma Pastor, representing Congressman Pastor, at an event where Justin was named the winner of the Fourth Congressional District's Art Competition.

Apollo HS student places 1st in Pastor's art contest

Justin Ayala, a sophomore student at Apollo High School, has been selected as the winner of the Fourth Congressional District's Art Competition and will be recognized in a ceremony at an event on Capitol Hill on June 24, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor. Ayala won the competition with his "Self-Portrait" drawing in charcoal. His art teacher is Barbara Dahlstedt.

There were 109 entries in the competition. Second place went to Cody Jayne Albin, a senior at Apollo High School. Third place was awarded to Candy Navarro, a senior at Central High School.

How to contact Congressman 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.

Web Page (use site for electronic mail): <http://www.house.gov/pastor>

Washington Office

2465 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20515-0302
 Phone: (202) 225-4065

Phoenix District Office

411 N. Central Ave., Suite 150
 Phoenix, AZ 85004
 Phone: (602) 256-0551

I ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEND MAIL ONLY TO MY PHOENIX DISTRICT OFFICE.

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

✂ *Clip and save* ✂



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