

IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) free for taxpayers who qualify

As April 15 approaches, Rep. Pastor reminds constituents that the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and the Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program offer free tax help for taxpayers who qualify.

Trained community volunteers may help with special credits, such as Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled. In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, most sites also offer free electronic filing (e-filing).

VITA Program

The VITA Program offers free tax help to low-to moderate-income (generally, \$49,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. To locate the nearest VITA site, call 1-800-829-1040.

TCE Program

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program provides free tax help to people aged 60 and older.

As part of the IRS-sponsored TCE Program, AARP offers the Tax-Aide counseling program at more than 7,000 sites nationwide during the filing season. For more information on TCE, call 1-800-829-1040.

Free Tax Assistance Sites

In the Fourth Congressional District, these are some of the Phoenix sites that offer free tax assistance:

Bret Tarver Learning Center, 1516 N. 35th Ave., Wednesdays from 9:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m., and Fridays from 10:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., through April 14.

Inter Tribal Council, 2214 N. Central Ave., Suite 100, Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon, through April 10 (closed on March 13).

Garfield Weed & Seed Office, 1029 E. Garfield, Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., through April 14.

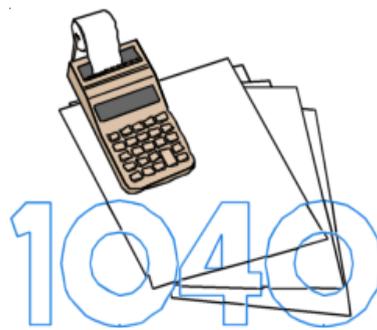
Emmett McLoughlin Community Training Center, 1150 S. Seventh Ave., Tuesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., through April 13.

Rehoboth Saint Center, 2315 N. 35th Ave., Mondays 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through April 12.

John F. Long Family Center, 3454 N. 51st Ave., Mondays 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to noon, through April 13.

South Mountain Community Center, 7050 S. 24th St., Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., through April 7 (closed on March 17).

Fisher Chapel AME Zion, 1607 E. South Mountain Ave., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., through April 10.



Rep. Pastor encourages residents to return Census questionnaires



IT'S IN OUR HANDS
United States
**Census
2010**

America can't move forward on its count of the U.S. population until Americans mail back their Census forms this spring, and Rep. Pastor is encouraging all constituents to return their forms promptly.

The 2010 Census consists of only 10 questions and takes about 10 minutes to complete. Census responses are confidential.



U.S. Census Bureau
Census data is used to determine locations for schools, hospitals and community facilities, among other resources.

Congressional mobile office sites

To assist constituents with any issues they may have with federal agencies, a staff member from Congressman Pastor's Phoenix office will be at these locations this year. No appointments are necessary. All locations, except for Madison Street, will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.



South Mountain Community Center

212 E. Alta Vista Road, Phoenix
April 6, May 4

Golden Gate Community Center

1625 N. 39th Ave., Phoenix
May 11

Glendale Community Center

5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale
April 20, May 18

Guadalupe Senior Center

9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe
March 23, April 27, May 25

Chinese Senior Center

734 W. Elm St., Phoenix
April 13

Madison Street Veterans Association

233 S. 11th Ave., Phoenix
April 13, May 11, June 8 (8 a.m. to noon)

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.

<http://www.pastor.house.gov>

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

Please send postal delivery mail to Phoenix District Office only.

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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Ed Pastor
Congressman

WASHINGTON REPORT
Recovery Act put to work
March 2010

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CONGRESSMAN

Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON REPORT

Recovery Act put to work

INSIDE

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- ▶ Foreclosure scams abound

Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

March 2010

Recovery Act put to work in Arizona

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

Arizona has been hard hit during the foreclosure and economic crisis, and I have heard many stories from my constituents about the difficult times they are experiencing. My offices and I have been working diligently to provide resources and referrals for job training and economic assistance.

In Congress last year, we passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help cushion the impact of the economic crisis and lay a new foundation for growth. We are beginning to see the fruits of the act in Arizona as it has provided funds for programs and projects that are creating or saving jobs.

Locally, the Arizona Department of Transportation has received \$522 million in funds for transportation projects which include, for example, design and construction of intersection improvements at Seventh Street and McDowell Road in Phoenix, and the installation of pavement markings on 25 miles of arterial streets in Glendale.

Federal stimulus funding also has been vital to ensuring the maintenance of basic levels of service for the most vulnerable families and individuals in Arizona. Millions of dollars in funding has been granted to the state Department of Economic Security for workforce training and unemployment insurance, for example.

While job losses nationally have decreased somewhat, I recognize this is of little consolation to families who continue to seek employment.

FOCUS ON JOB CREATION

That is why I was heartened by President Obama's State of the Union Address, where he outlined a plan to steer the nation away from the recession and spark job creation. Proposed investments in the key areas of education, clean energy, infrastructure and innovation are key



Rep. Pastor and green-job trainees discuss economic stimulus act's job creation

Congressman Ed Pastor recently met with participants in a green job training program in Phoenix funded in part by the federal stimulus act. Pastor discussed the jobs saved or created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in addition to the boost it has given the economy.

to help strengthen the nation's economic security.

As the year moves ahead, expect to see more Recovery-funded projects create jobs as Congress works to address our budget deficit. As always, feel free to contact my Phoenix District Office with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor

Member of Congress

Green jobs training funds, stimulus act highlighted by Rep. Pastor

Efforts to create jobs and rebuild the economy are beginning to make an impact in Arizona, Rep. Ed Pastor announced recently in marking the one year anniversary since the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) became law on Feb. 17, 2009.

Pastor discussed the ARRA during a visit to a green-jobs training program funded in part by the federal stimulus plan. About 20 young people in the program operated by the nonprofit Labor Community Service Agency are receiving green-job training skills, which will help them become ac-

credited in green building and open doors to job opportunities, Pastor said.

“This is a significant step in the creation of jobs that will put people to work in a growing field for many years to come,” Pastor said. “This program is a great example of the investment we can make into our workforce and our young people while helping the nation recover economically.”

Through passage of the economic stimulus, more than two million jobs have been created or saved during the first year of a two-year ef-

fort to bring the economy back from the brink, Pastor said.

In Arizona, the Department of Labor alone invested more than \$72 million through organizations such as the Arizona Department of Economic Security and Arizona Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Inc.

Congressman Ed Pastor’s District Director Elisa de la Vara, fourth from right, joined Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon and other local officials to announce a project in downtown Phoenix funded by federal transit stimulus dollars. The \$1 million project will add lanes and bus bays to the Seventh Street and McDowell Road intersection.



Rep. Pastor meets with homeless veterans at Phoenix VA, discusses their needs

Congressman Ed Pastor recently handed out free lunches to homeless veterans served by the Phoenix VA Health Care system. Pastor offered assistance to the veterans experiencing issues with federal agencies and recognized VA employees for their work with homeless veterans.



Leadership discussion

Rep. Ed Pastor recently spoke about government and politics to participants in a Valley Leadership seminar at the Salt River Project offices in Phoenix. Pastor discussed his work in Congress as a member of the House Appropriations Committee. He is currently serving as the acting chairman of the committee’s Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.



Congressman Pastor recognized for environmental voting record

When Congress addressed major environmental issues, Rep. Ed Pastor voted for the environment 100 percent of the time, according to Environment Arizona, a nonprofit, nonpartisan environmental advocacy organization.

“Congressman Pastor has consistently voted to put the environment ahead of special interests,” said Bret Fanshaw of Environment Arizona. “In the past year and a half, he has successfully fought to invest an unprecedented \$80 billion in clean energy and to protect more than two million acres of wilderness.”

Pastor has consistently worked to protect the environment and natural resources, he said.

“There is no time and energy left to waste when it comes to the protection of our environment and our earth. It also makes sense, during these tough economic times, to embrace a green life-style. It not only helps save our environment, but it also saves money.”

Rep. Ed Pastor recently toured ECOTality in Phoenix with Jonathan Read and Donald Karner. The Phoenix operation specializes in clean electrical transportation and storage technologies. It received stimulus funds to build charging stations across the country, creating jobs and boosting the economy.



Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with representatives of Environment Arizona who recognized him for his 100 percent voting record on key environmental legislation.



Pastor: Beware of foreclosure-assistance scams

Help available for distressed homeowners

Valley residents about to lose their homes are the new victims of scam artists according to federal agencies familiar with the issue. Homeowners are being promised modifications to their loans for an up-front cost, sometimes reaching several thousands of dollars. Cases in Arizona are increasing, and Spanish-speaking families have been targeted.

False hope

Scammers have found ways to market their “services” to desperate families on the verge of losing their largest investment. They prom-



ise a happy ending, including claims to secure lower payments, repair credit or even buy more time to stall the foreclosure.

Rep. Pastor reminds residents that families can receive foreclosure assistance for free. There are a number of HUD-certified counseling agencies within the Fourth Congressional District that are available for this purpose.

Free assistance is available

Feel free to contact Rep. Pastor’s Phoenix District Office at 602-256-0551 for a list of these resources.



McDowell Healthcare Center

Meeting community needs for 20 years

Rep. Ed Pastor recently joined officials from Maricopa Integrated Health System to mark the 20th anniversary of the McDowell Healthcare Center in Phoenix, which was one of the first local clinics to provide services for individuals with HIV/AIDS. The clinic, which receives federal dollars through Ryan White funding, is the largest provider of HIV primary care services within Maricopa County.

Pastor spoke about his role on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors in 1990 in approving federal funding to launch the clinic, which was controversial due to the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS at the time.

“Today as in 20 years ago, the issue in the debate for health care should focus on providing services to people who need them,” Pastor said.

Rep. Ed Pastor and Betsey Bayless, chief executive officer of Maricopa Intergrated Health System, discuss the services of the McDowell Healthcare Center, which receives some federal funding.

Opportunities for students



Military Academy Day: April 17 at Alhambra HS

Rep. Ed Pastor, as a member of Congress, has the privilege of nominating qualified students for admission to service academies on a competitive basis.

To learn more about the educational opportunities at the Air Force, Naval, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine or West Point Military Academies, Rep. Pastor will hold his Military Academy Day on April 17 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Alhambra High School, 3839 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix.

More information is available by contacting Gretchen Alvarenga in Rep. Pastor's Office at 602-256-0551.

Congressman Pastor's Office, along with school and Navy representatives, recently recognized Cesar Chavez High School senior Awad Mohamed, who has accepted an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He was nominated to the Naval Academy by Congressman Ed Pastor.

Congressional internships

College students are encouraged to apply for internships in Rep. Pastor's Phoenix District Office to help them gain an insight to the full range of experiences and activities related to the operations of a Congressional office.

More information is available by contacting E. Mari Herrera in Rep. Pastor's Office at 602-256-0551.

Interns Amanda Skeen, Andres Cano and Ashley Sherman discuss their activities as Congressman Pastor's interns for the spring 2010 semester.

