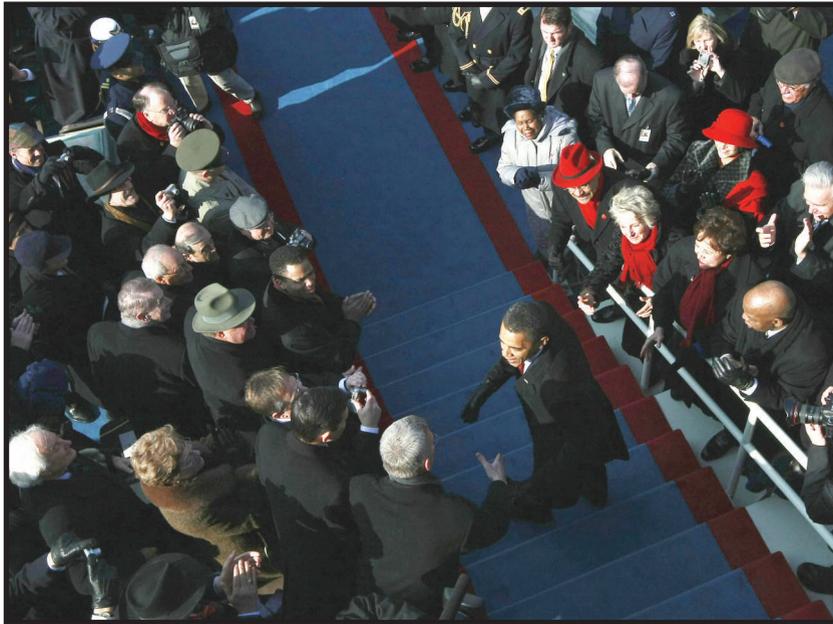


## Rep. Pastor, Arizonans witness President Obama's inauguration



Win McNamee/Getty Images

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, in cap on far right upper corner of photo, represented the Fourth Congressional District as one of the members of Congress who was present as President Barack Obama took his oath of office on the steps of the Capitol.



Phoenix residents Alton J. Jones and Gecola Ward were two of Rep. Pastor's constituents who attended President Obama's Inauguration.

## Thousands of constituents sought inauguration tickets

Thousands of Rep. Ed Pastor's constituents contacted his offices to request tickets to witness President Obama take his oath of office on Inauguration Day in Washington, D.C. Pastor received about 190 tickets for distribution to constituents, and was unable to accommodate many requests.

Despite the lack of tickets, the 56th Presidential Inauguration was more open and accessible than any other in history, Pastor said. However, unprecedented problems at the Third Street Tunnel near the Capitol blocked many ticket holders from witnessing the inauguration.

Pastor said he was hopeful an investigation into the matter by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) will prevent similar incidents in the future.

If you are a constituent who received tickets from Rep. Pastor and were unable to witness the inauguration due to security issues, please contact the Phoenix District Office at 602-256-0551. You will receive information from the JCCIC about requesting a commemorative program and photo from the JCCIC.



# Isaac School District bridge opens for pedestrians

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor joined the Isaac School District community in August to mark the opening of a pedestrian bridge over McDowell Road near 35th Avenue. The bridge will provide a safer crossing for students in the high-traffic area.

Through Pastor's efforts, federal funding was secured to help pay for the bridge's construction costs. The City of Phoenix Bond Program also contributed towards construction.

**Congressman Ed Pastor announced the opening of the Isaac School District Pedestrian Bridge with Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon; Councilman Tom Simplot; Isaac School Board Members Andy Sandoval, Evelyn Shapiro, Harry Garewal and Jose Villela; Supt. Carlos Bejarano; and Isaac community leaders and students.**

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

**Ed Pastor**  
 Congressman

**WASHINGTON REPORT**  
 New president, Congress  
 February 2009

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CONGRESSMAN

**Ed Pastor**

**WASHINGTON REPORT**

***New president, Congress***

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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

February 2009

## Changing America together

Dear Fellow Arizonans:

America is experiencing transition this year with the historic election of our new President Barack Obama, our change in state governor, and the almost unprecedented economic stress we're facing. Amid all this change, with encouragement from President Obama's inaugural words, many Americans want to see this country come together and rise up to the challenges we are confronting.

As the new 111th Congress begins its work this year, I am committed towards the passage of legislation that will reinvest in America and help stabilize our economy. Towards that goal, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan was passed in the House, which was a crucial first step towards making our economy stronger. According to an analysis of the plan by prominent economist Mark Zandi, it would create three to four million more jobs, and the unemployment rate would drop two percentage points by the end of 2010.

Arizona would see 125,470 jobs created and a decrease of 2.3 percent in the unemployment rate, according to Zandi. Hopefully, the bill will be finalized and sent to the President for his signature by mid-February.

To address the foreclosure crisis directly, the House also passed the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) Reform and Accountability Act, which would bolster transparency and accountabil-



**Congressman Ed Pastor's is sworn into the 111th Congress by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.**

ity to make sure that funds are used responsibly and that help is provided to Americans who may lose their homes. I remain hopeful that the Senate will take up the bill and pass it.

I hope you will take time to read the updates inside this newsletter and feel free to contact my offices with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



# Valley boards light rail

## Federal funding secured by Rep. Pastor, service launched in December



**U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor joined Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters and Rep. Harry Mitchell at the December event that launched the opening of the Valley's METRO light rail system, which was built in part with federal funding.**

Light rail service for the metropolitan Phoenix area officially began Dec. 27, 2008, with thousands of individuals riding the trains and visiting the route's stops.

Rep. Ed Pastor spoke about his efforts to bring light rail to the Valley with the 50 percent federal funding cost-share secured through his work in Congress.

The 20-mile light rail starter line travels from northwest Mesa to north central Phoenix. Plans to extend the tracks to other high traffic areas are being evaluated to continue to address the Valley's critical transportation needs.

### How to ride the METRO light rail

- All-day pass is \$2.50, but less for youth, seniors and people with disabilities. Children 5 and under ride free.
- Buy your pass at a fare vending machine at any light rail station.
- List of stations available at: [www.valleymetro.org](http://www.valleymetro.org).
- Hours of service are roughly 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Trains arrive at a station every 10 to 20 minutes.
- More information available at (602) 253-5000.

## IMPROVING VETERANS' CARE

### MRI machine helps VA hospital improve care

Rep. Ed Pastor spoke about the importance of providing quality health care to veterans recently at the unveiling of a new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix.

Congress was able to provide additional appropriations funding for VA services last year, which helped the Phoenix VA center purchase a new MRI unit to improve health care for veterans.

Prior to its closing, Phoenix Memorial Hospital had provided MRI services for the VA hospital.

"We have a moral obligation to care for our veterans, especially in their time of need," Pastor said. "They deserve and need improved and timely medical services."



**U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor discusses health care with World War II veteran and Phoenix resident Angel Moya. Pastor and Moya met at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, where Moya is a patient.**

# Helping homeowners facing foreclosure, HUD grants assist neighborhoods

Congressman Ed Pastor recently held a Foreclosure Prevention Workshop in conjunction with the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco and the City of Phoenix to help homeowners in financial crisis.

Hundreds of homeowners took advantage of the opportunity to meet confidentially with lenders and housing counselors for assistance.

Pastor encouraged homeowners to talk to their lenders as soon as they begin to experience problems with making their monthly mortgage payments.

## HOMEOWNER HOTLINE 800-225-5342

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development also has set up a Hope for Homeowners hotline where homeowners may be able to get

assistance. The hotline number is 800-225-5342. HUD's website at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) also has information to help individuals.

## NEIGHBORHOOD HELP

As part of a Congressional appropriations of \$3.92 billion for a HUD Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Pastor recently announced that Arizona received a \$38.4 million grant to address the impact of abandoned and foreclosed properties in the state's communities.

HUD allocated funds to each state based on foreclosure figures.

The funds will be used by the City of Phoenix to pre-

serve good neighborhoods so they stay healthy, turn around changing neighborhoods so that they become desirable, and redevelop and rebuild blighted areas so that they become workable neighborhoods. Phoenix's strategy will focus on areas with significant foreclosure rates and risk factors.



Rep. Ed Pastor recently spoke about Congress' efforts to help homeowners facing foreclosure during a workshop in Phoenix



## Congressman Pastor reaches out to encourage reading

Congressman Ed Pastor encouraged families to read aloud to their children during a recent visit to the Children's Rehabilitative Services Building at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in support of the Reach Out and Read Literacy Program.

"This is an innovative program where caring doctors and nurses in the hospital's Pediatric Ambulatory Care Center send families home after check-ups with free books and an important prescription to read aloud to their children," Pastor said.

Pastor thanked Reach Out and Read program for promoting literacy so that children will grow up with books and a love of reading. The program is funded in part by the federal government.

# Pastor: Hydrogen-powered cars help address country's long-term energy challenges



Rep. Ed Pastor, right, recently met with Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administrator Paul Brubaker to discuss the future of hydrogen-fueled vehicle use in America.

A caravan of hydrogen-fueled vehicles drove into the Valley recently for a transportation event where Rep. Ed Pastor spoke about their commercial viability.

The Hydrogen Road Tour stopped at Gateway Community College in Phoenix as part of a two-week trip across the country to showcase clean, hydrogen-powered cars. Paul Brubaker, the Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administrator, met with Pastor during the stop. U.S. DOT sponsored the tour along with the U.S. Department of Energy and others.

"Rising fuel prices are forcing Americans to search for alternative choices," Pastor said. "Hydrogen-fueled vehicles are non-polluting, efficient and much healthier for our environment."

Hydrogen produces virtually no greenhouse gas emissions, discharging only water as a by-product.

## Rep. Pastor scores strong on environment

U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor voted in support of critical environmental protection legislation 92 percent of the time, according to a report issued by the nonprofit League of Conservation Voters. Pastor received the highest score in the Arizona delegation for votes during the second session of the 110th Congress.

## Congressional mobile office locations for 2009

To assist constituents with any issues they may have with federal agencies, a representative from Congressman Pastor's office will be at these locations in 2009. No appointments are necessary. More information is available by phoning Rep. Pastor's office at 602-256-0551.

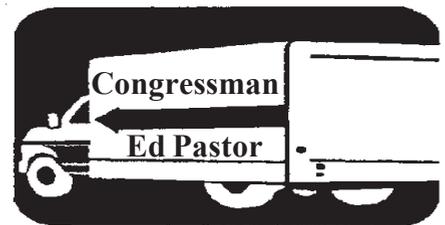
South Mountain Community Center, 212 E. Alta Vista, Phoenix  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1.

Golden Gate Community Center, 1625 N. 39th Ave., Phoenix  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on March 10, May 12, July 14, Sept. 8, and Nov. 10.

Glendale Community Center, 5401 W. Ocotillo, Glendale  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, and Dec. 15.

Guadalupe Senior Center, 9401 S. Avenida del Yaqui, Guadalupe  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Feb. 24, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, Oct. 27, Nov. 24, and Dec. 22.

Desert West Community Center, 6501 W. Virginia, Phoenix  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on April 14 and June 9



Rep. Ed Pastor's Community Liaison E. Mari Herrera-Daniels explains congressional services to constituents at the recent Statewide Independent Living Council Community Outreach Forum in Phoenix.