



# Congressman Gene Green Reports

Dear Friend,

This newsletter announces a number of district events that our office has planned. The major issue before Congress should be resolved before you receive this newsletter. Our national debt has reached a level that we need to extend our debt limit. Our Nation had balanced national budgets in 1999 and 2000 and we were paying down our national debt. Since 2001 until now, our national debt has increased due to 9/11, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, the Medicare Prescription Drug Plan and our 2008 economic recession. We grew into a balanced budget in the 1990's and can do it again. Social Security benefits did not cause our national debt and should not be reduced. Other federal spending does need to be controlled.

We've set our town hall meetings which are listed below. Our Senior Issues Forum will be held on Thursday, August 18, where senior citizens can hear legislative updates and meet with agency representatives. In addition, our Annual Immunization Day is set for Saturday, August 20. This event is in its 16th year to make sure children receive the immunizations they need to stay healthy. Other events include our College Workshop & Military Academy Day on Monday, September 19, and our Northside Job Fair on Friday, September 30. More information on these events can be found inside this newsletter.

As always, our office is open for any questions or concerns you have regarding the federal government, and you do not need to wait for a district event to contact me. Another way to stay up to date with us is through our electronic newsletter, which is sent periodically and gives up to the minute information on legislative initiatives and district events. To sign up for our e-newsletter, please visit the website for the 29th Congressional District at <http://green.house.gov/contact-me/newsletter>

Sincerely,

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

## Creating and Maintaining Jobs in America

One of my top priorities in the House of Representatives this session is pushing for legislation that will strengthen and protect the American economy and increase our job base. The recently released "Make It In America" program will put American jobs and American manufacturing front and center.

The focus of this initiative is to support job creation today and in the future by encouraging businesses to make products and innovate in the United States and strengthen our country by investing in infrastructure and key sectors, such as education and energy.

It was our nation's manufacturing base that created our middle class and made America the largest economy in the world. Reinvigorating our nation's manufacturing sector and putting millions of Americans back to work should be a non-

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Rep. Green congratulates the 2011 Congressional Art Competition winner, Martha Salinas from Pasadena High School, who stands with Rep. Green after her art was selected out of over 50 entrants. Every year, the art of one high school student from the 29th District is chosen and the winner receives a trip to D.C. to attend a national ceremony as well as having their art displayed in the Capitol building.



## 29th District Events

### Town Hall Meetings

**Wednesday, August 17**  
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

San Jacinto College North  
Slovacek Center, Monument Room  
5800 Uvalde, Houston, TX 77049

**Thursday, August 18**  
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Hardy Community Center  
11901 West Hardy Road, Houston, TX 77076

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

United Steel Workers Hall  
311 Pasadena Blvd., Pasadena, TX 77506

**Saturday, August 27**  
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Ripley House  
4410 Navigation, Houston, TX 77011

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Harris County Public Library – Aldine Branch  
11331 Airline, Houston, TX 77037

**Tuesday, September 6**

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

HPD East Freeway Storefront  
12001-A East Freeway, Houston, TX 77029

### Other Public Events

Rep. Green will be speaking at the following events:

**Tuesday, August 16**  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

HPD North Division PIP Meeting  
HPD North Police Station  
9455 W. Montgomery, Houston, TX 77088

**Tuesday, August 30**  
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Reveille/Park Place Civic Club  
Charlton Park  
8200 Park Place Blvd., Houston, TX 77017

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partisan issue and I am hopeful that provisions in the "Make It In America" agenda will receive support from both sides of the aisle and be sent to the president's desk for signature.

I am a major supporter of the "Make It In America" initiative and have cosponsored legislation to show that I am fully behind bills that help our nation. Among the bills that are part of the agenda is the National Manufacturing Strategy Act (H.R. 1366). This bill would integrate our national policies on taxes, research, trade, and currency valuation into one unified strategy to facilitate and increase manufacturing in this country.

One of the best ways for our country to increase job creation is to promote export growth. Unfortunately, nations like China have manipulated their currencies for years, creating an unsustainable global trade imbalance that has harmed American workers and job creators. This is why I am a cosponsor and strong supporter of the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act (H.R. 639), which would give the administration additional tools to address China's fundamental undervaluation of its currency.

We must also continue to invest in our communities to get our economy moving. I am also a cosponsor of the Building American Jobs Act (H.R. 992), which will extend the Build America Program through 2012. As reported by the Treasury Department, since 2009, the Build America Program has turned \$4.4 billion in federal investment into \$181 billion in bonds for state and local entities to invest in infrastructure and create jobs. The multiplier effect of some of these programs created real and positive economic change in our communities.

Many of the "Make It In America" bills are still under consideration in committee or are in the Senate but I will continue to support legislation like these that bring businesses and jobs back to the United States.

## Job Fair

**Friday, September 30, 2011**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

*M.O. Campbell Educational Center*  
1865 Aldine Bender Road  
Houston, TX 77032

Job creation and getting Americans back to work is an immediate priority. Rep. Green invites you to attend the 2nd Job Fair this year to hear more about these issues and meet with representatives from dozens of local businesses that are looking to currently hire. There will also be resume critiquing and interview assistance available. For more information, please contact our office at 281-999-5879. Please dress professionally and bring copies of your resume.

### **Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Act**

I am proud to have introduced the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area Act (H.R. 2378) again this session to obtain National Heritage Area recognition for the 25-mile stretch of Buffalo Bayou including the Houston Ship Channel.

When passed, H.R. 2378 will designate Buffalo Bayou as the first National Heritage Area in Texas. This designation will provide the tourism benefits of federal recognition without placing any restrictions on land or commerce.

Buffalo Bayou has a long history of significance for the area and our state. It was initially a point of Texas settlement and then the location for the Battle of San Jacinto, where Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836. Since then, Buffalo Bayou has sustained the growth of East Harris County and the development of the critical economic powerhouses for our area, the energy and petrochemical industries.

In 2002, the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Study Act was passed. The study, conducted by the National Park Service, found that Buffalo Bayou was eligible for National Heritage Area designation and the heritage area status would enhance and promote the national significance of this historic waterway.

The legislation has received bipartisan support from my fellow Houston Representative Pete Olson (TX-22), who is an original cosponsor on the bill, as well as Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison has introduced the accompanying Senate bill for this session, S. 127.

Obtaining distinction for Buffalo Bayou as a National Heritage Area has received wide support from area residents, local entities such as the East Harris County Manufacturers Association and the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, the Port of Houston, Harris County, and the surrounding cities. We look forward to working together to host the first National Heritage Area in the state.



**Rep. Green meets with Harris County officials at a briefing on the status of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund site, located along IH-10 East at the San Jacinto River. Rep. Green was instrumental in getting this industrial waste site put on the EPA's cleanup priority list. The EPA recently issued a \$50,000 grant to assist in the cleanup process.**

# Affordable Health Care in Action

## Texans Save \$16 million in Prescription Costs

Before the Affordable Care Act was implemented, beneficiaries of Medicare Prescription Drug Plans would reach their coverage gap and be forced to pay the full cost of their prescriptions. Since the law was passed, beneficiaries who find themselves in the coverage gap now automatically receive a 50% discount on covered brand-name drugs. So far, over 478,000 Americans and over 27,000 Texans have been able to keep more of their money in their own pockets due to this law.

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, in Texas alone, beneficiaries have saved a total of \$16,213,402 which is an average savings of \$594.38 per beneficiary. With the price of prescription drugs continuing to rise, we look forward to seeing those savings of more Americans continue to grow until 2020, when the law permanently closes the coverage gap so that no one with a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan ever has to pay the full cost of drugs covered under their plan.

## Premiums Drop for Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans

Too often, people with pre-existing medical conditions like cancer, diabetes, or asthma are denied basic health insurance coverage by insurance companies because they are seen as too costly or risky to insure. Congress saw this injustice and passed the Affordable Care Act, which completely bans this type of discrimination by 2014. It also designated funds for states to set up Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plans (PCIP) to give people with medical conditions the opportunity to get health insurance now.

On May 31, 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced new guidelines for enrolling in federally-administrated PCIP programs, which includes Texas. Premiums for plans in Texas will decrease by 23.6%, which will give more Texans the opportunity to get health insurance.

In addition, starting July 1, 2011, people applying for coverage through a PCIP will no longer have to wait on an insurance company to send them a denial letter to qualify. They can provide a letter from a doctor dated within the last year that states that they have or have had a medical condition or disability. Applicants will still need to show that they have been without health coverage for six months.

For information on how to apply, you can visit [www.pcip.gov](http://www.pcip.gov) or call the PCIP Call Center toll-free at 1-866-717-5826.

### *Senior Citizens Issues Forum*

**Thursday, August 18, 2011  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

*Hardy Community Center*  
11901 West Hardy Road  
Houston, TX 77076

Join Rep. Green for a discussion regarding updates on legislative issues affecting seniors. In addition, agency representatives from the Social Security Administration, Houston/Harris County Area Agency on Aging, and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services will share important information and be available to answer questions about health care, referral services, and programs for seniors.

### *16th Annual Immunization Day*

**Saturday, August 20, 2011  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Just in time for the new school year, Rep. Green will discuss legislative health initiatives while free immunizations are provided to children. Immunizations will be administered at the following locations:

*Galena Park High School*  
(Galena Park ISD)  
1000 Keene Street  
Galena Park, TX 77547

*Pugh Elementary School (HISD)*  
1147 Kress Street  
Houston, TX 77020

*Stephens Elementary School (Aldine ISD)*  
2402 Aldine Mail Route  
Houston, TX 77039

## Update on Electronic Waste

In response to growing concern about the toxic effects of discarded consumer electronic products ("e-waste") that are not recycled properly, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-01) and I introduced H.R. 2284, the Responsible Electronics Recycling Act of 2011. This bill prohibits the export of electronics that may create environmental, health, or national security risks if sent abroad and not treated correctly. H.R. 2284 has received bipartisan support with Republican cosponsors, Rep. Steven LaTourette (OH-14), Rep. Blake Farenthold (TX-27) and Rep. Lee Terry (NE-2).

In 2008, the Government Accountability Office reported that many of the developing nations that receive e-waste from the United States, like China and India, do not have the capacity or facilities to safely recycle and dispose of these used electronics. H.R. 2284 would address this growing problem by carefully regulating the export of e-waste.

Specifically, H.R. 2284 creates a new section of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act that prohibits the export of certain electronic equipment to developing nations that choose not to comply. Tested and working equipment that does not contain toxins that are banned can still be exported to promote reuse, along with products exported for warranty repair or due to recall.

## Contact Us

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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## Paying for College Workshop & Academy Day

Monday, September 19, 2011 / 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Aldine Senior High School  
11101 Airline Drive, Houston, TX 77037

Congressman Green invites you to a free financial aid workshop on paying for college. Learn about the financial aid process and finding scholarships in a presentation by Sallie Mae. Representatives from local colleges as well as military academies will be present to give information and answer questions.

Importing countries must give their consent to accept these regulations or they will not be allowed to receive e-waste. This legislative approach is consistent with the e-waste policies adopted by most other developed nations by international treaties.

In addition to promoting the responsible recycling of e-waste, the Responsible Electronics Recycling Act of 2011 will also create good-paying jobs in America. While there are domestic recyclers that currently process e-waste, they have a hard time competing with overseas recycling facilities that have few, if any, labor and environmental standards and are able to offer cheaper services as a result. By promoting the domestic recycling industry, H.R. 2284 will bring recycling jobs back to the United States.



At a Helping a Hero home presentation, Rep. Green speaks about Veterans benefits and thanks Sgt. Andrew Beesley for his service. Sgt. Beesley grew up in the 29th District and served our nation in Iraq. He was presented with a new home after being injured and returning to Houston.