



Todd Platts

U.S. Congress, 19th District

Adams County District Office
22 Chambersburg St., Gettysburg, PA 17325
(717) 338-1919

Cumberland County District Office
59 W. Louthier St., Carlisle, PA 17013
(717) 249-0190

York County District Office
2209 East Market St., York, PA 17402
(717) 600-1919

D.C. Office
1032 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515
(202) 225-5836

Toll-free Phone: 1-877-902-1919
Web site: www.house.gov/platts

Todd R. Platts
M.C.
PRSR-STD

Congressional Update

Constituent Survey Results

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.



Dear Friend,

I hope this letter finds you doing well. As part of my ongoing effort to remain well informed of your views and concerns, I am pleased to share below the dates, times, and locations of my next series of Town Meetings. I hope you will join me at one of the meetings. Your feedback is always welcomed and sincerely appreciated.

Additionally, on the reverse side of this Congressional Update, I am pleased to share the results of my January constituent survey. I am deeply grateful to all who responded to the survey. I hope you find the results informative.

Please continue to keep our nation's men and women in uniform, as well as their families, in your thoughts and prayers. The security, peace, and unparalleled blessings we enjoy here at home are because of their courageous and unwavering service throughout the world.

May God watch over them and may God continue to bless our great nation!

Sincerely,

Todd Russell Platts

House Passes Defense Bill

By a vote of 391 – 34, the House of Representatives passed the fiscal year 2005 defense authorization bill (H.R. 4200) on May 20, 2004. The annual national defense authorization act sets policies, programs, and funding levels for our nation's military.

This year's act, coming at a time when U.S. forces remain courageously engaged in a struggle for the safety and security of Americans here at home as well as the freedom of the people of Afghanistan and Iraq, was focused both on protecting our troops on the battlefield and supporting their families' needs back home. The largely bipartisan supported bill was based on months of hearings with Department of Defense senior leaders as well as meetings directly with commanders and troops deployed in combat. Some of the critically important aspects of H.R. 4200 include: a 3.5% pay increase for military personnel; an increase in the number of active-duty service members in the Army by 30,000 and in the Marine Corps by 9,000; the provision of additional body armor and armored vehicles for troops deployed in harm's way; improved survivor benefits for spouses of military retirees; and, the provision of a health care program for National Guard members and reservists and their family members who otherwise lack health insurance.

I voted in favor of H.R. 4200 and remain committed to ensuring that our men and women in uniform have our nation's full and unequivocal support. The House and Senate are now conferencing on their respective versions of the fiscal year 2005 defense authorization act. For more information on this issue, please visit the House Armed Services Committee web site at: <http://armedservices.house.gov/>.

Reducing Energy Costs

The United States House of Representatives considered three measures on June 15, 2004 aimed at ensuring more affordable, reliable and stable energy prices. I voted in favor of each of these measures.

First, the **Gasoline Price Reduction Act (H.R. 4545)** would address supply disruptions that have occurred in certain regions of the country due to the government-mandated use of specialized gasoline formulations known as "boutique fuels." Second, the **Energy Policy Act (H.R. 4503)** would provide incentives for domestic oil and natural gas production as well as the development of alternative and renewable energy sources. Finally, the **U.S. Refinery Revitalization Act (H.R. 4517)** would streamline the process for building new oil refineries. No new oil refineries have been built in the United States since 1976. Today, 153 refineries operate in the United States, as compared to 324 refineries in 1981. H.R. 4517 and H.R. 4503 passed the full House by a vote of 239-192 and 244-178, respectively. Both bills are now pending in the Senate. Although a majority of members (specifically, 236) voted in favor of H.R. 4545, that measure failed to pass the House because of a special procedure that was in place requiring a super-majority for final passage.

Girl Scouts Honored -

Recognizing the strong moral character and leadership skills of 19th District Girl Scouts when they receive their Gold Award is an inspiring experience. From left: Lisa Carter, daughter of Ronald and Sheila Carter of Hanover; Caitlin Fralic, daughter of William and Sue Fralic of Hanover; Jen Vincent, daughter of Patrick and Karen Vincent of Hanover; and Sara McCarty, daughter of Mike and Rena McCarty of Hanover; of Penn Laurel Girl Scout Council Senior Troop 1703 in Hanover were recent Gold Award recipients to whom I was proud to present a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition and a U.S. flag.



Town Meeting Schedule

Thursday, August 19

Washington Fire Company #1
53 East Main Street
Mechanicsburg
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, August 20

South Central York County Senior Center
150 East Main Street
New Freedom
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Friday, August 20

Brethren Home - Nicarry Meetinghouse
2990 Carlisle Pike
New Oxford
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 21

Dover Fire Hall
30 East Canal Road
York
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Constituent Survey Results

Surveys such as the one included in my January newsletter are a valuable means of keeping me well informed of your views and concerns regarding legislative proposals. **More than 17,459 citizens responded** to one or more survey questions. The results are found below. **I am pleased to extend my deepest thanks to all who took the time to share their opinions with me.**

1. Should the top corporate tax rate be reduced from 35% to 32% for domestic manufacturers in an effort to retain and create jobs for workers here in the United States?
Total responses: 15,533
Yes 11,061 (71%) No 4,472 (29%)
2. Do you support the recent decision of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to permit national broadcast companies to own local broadcast stations reaching 45% of all U.S. households, up from 35%?
Total responses: 14,209
Yes 4,401 (31%) No 9,808 (69%)
3. Should the \$1,000 child tax credit be "refundable" (i.e., be made payable to those whose income is too low to owe federal income tax)?
Total responses: 15,776
Yes 5,896 (37%) No 9,880 (63%)
4. Do you believe prescription drugs approved for use in the United States can be safely re-imported into the country from Canada, the European Union, and other industrialized countries?
Total responses: 15,786
Yes 12,214 (77%) No 3,572 (23%)
5. Should the U.S. Constitution be amended to prohibit states from recognizing same-sex marriages?
Total responses: 16,305
Yes 9,668 (59%) No 6,637 (41%)
6. Should the federal government provide federal program benefits that are offered based on marital status (i.e., Social Security spousal benefits) to state-recognized same-sex civil unions?
Total responses: 16,048
Yes 3,594 (22%) No 12,454 (78%)
7. Should Congress extend for an additional 13 weeks unemployment compensation benefits for individuals who have exhausted their 26 weeks of standard benefits?
Total responses: 15,962
Yes 9,323 (58%) No 6,639 (42%)
8. Should legal "temporary worker" status be offered to currently undocumented illegal immigrants working in agriculture and other industries if the worker follows the established application process, abides by the rules, and agrees to return home after the period of work expires?
Total responses: 16,096
Yes 7,898 (49%) No 8,198 (51%)
9. Do you support the U.S. led liberation and stabilization of Iraq?
Total responses: 15,759
Yes 11,023 (70%) No 4,736 (30%)
10. Should the requirement for work or job training for welfare recipients be increased from 30 hours per week to 40 hours per week?
Total responses: 15,568
Yes 10,304 (66%) No 5,264 (34%)
11. Should legislation be enacted to ensure that faith-based institutions have the same opportunity as other non-profits in competing for federal funds for job training programs, social services, etc.?
Total responses: 15,772
Yes 10,655 (68%) No 5,117 (32%)
12. Should Congress enact caps on the amount of non-economic (i.e., pain and suffering) and punitive damages that can be awarded in medical malpractice cases?
Total responses: 17,459
Yes 13,169 (75%) No 4,290 (25%)
13. Should Congress cap attorney fees in medical malpractice cases?
Total responses: 16,275
Yes 15,163 (93%) No 1,112 (7%)
14. Should lawful gun manufacturers be liable for the criminal misuse of firearms by individuals?
Total responses: 16,209
Yes 1,598 (10%) No 14,611 (90%)
15. Should Congress increase highway and transit funding this year to reduce congestion and strengthen our nation's transportation network?
Total responses: 15,470
Yes 11,748 (76%) No 3,722 (24%)
16. Should federal funding be provided for medical research involving new embryonic stem cell lines?
Total responses: 15,595
Yes 7,522 (48%) No 8,073 (52%)
17. To enhance charitable giving, should taxpayers who do not itemize deductions still be permitted to deduct a portion of their charitable contributions (i.e., take an "above-the-line" deduction)?
Total responses: 16,081
Yes 12,363 (77%) No 3,718 (23%)

Hands-on Experience -

Through the 19th District Internship Association's program, six local college students worked 10 weeks in my district and Washington offices this summer to learn about Congress and to serve 19th District residents. Pictured above (from left) are: Sarah Jensenius, a senior at Wake Forest University and daughter of Robert and Billie Jensenius of York; Seth Lennon, a junior at Millersville



University and son of Bert and Carol Lennon of Carlisle; Victoria Min, a junior at the University of Pennsylvania and daughter of Leo and Linda Min of Red Lion; Mary Teeter, a junior at the College of William and Mary and daughter of Robert and Marilyn Teeter of Gettysburg; Cory Winter, a junior at James Madison University, and son of Scott and Diane Winter of York; and Dyan Owens, a senior at St. Joseph's University, and daughter of Carl and Renita Owens of Carlisle.

Continuity in Representation

Ever since the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, a debate has been taking place on how the federal government would function in the event of catastrophic terrorist attack resulting in the deaths of a large number of United States House of Representatives and Senate members. Some have advocated the passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution that would allow members of the House to be appointed by state governors, much as Senators currently are when one of them dies in office. Others contend that "the people's House" should always remain a legislative body of elected, not appointed, members.

On April 22, 2004, the House voted 306-97 to pass legislation (H.R. 2844) requiring special elections to fill vacant House seats within 45 days in the event of a catastrophe killing at least 100 members. Some states already have laws on the books that allow for similarly expedited elections. Subsequently, on June 2, 2004, the House voted 63-353 to overwhelmingly reject a proposed Constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 83) to allow members of the House to instead be appointed. I voted with the majority of my colleagues in favor of H.R. 2844 (expedited elections) and against passage of H.J. Res. 83 (appointed members) because I believe an elected House of Representatives is fundamental to our system of government.