

**REP.  
RUSH  
HOLT**

## Town Hall Meetings

[www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov)

I hope to see you at one of these upcoming meetings to discuss issues such as Social Security, economic development, hometown security, health care, education, and anything else that may be on your mind.

### Saturday, June 23

#### Ewing Township

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Ewing Twp. Municipal Building  
2 Jake Garzio Drive

### Saturday, July 14

#### Middletown Township

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Middletown Township Hall  
One Kings Highway

### Saturday, July 14

#### Cranbury Township

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Cranbury Town Hall  
23 A North Main Street

### Sunday, July 22

#### Freehold Township

1 – 2:30 p.m.

Freehold Twp. Municipal Complex  
One Municipal Plaza

*To receive regular updates about my activities in New Jersey and in Washington, D.C., please visit my webpage at [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov) and sign up for my e-mail newsletter.*

## REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT

*As your Representative,  
I am here to help.  
Contact me any time.*

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**To learn more or to send me an e-mail, go to: [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov)**

Representative Rush Holt  
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West Windsor, NJ 08550

*Official Business  
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M.C.  
PRSRT-STD



REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT

# Report To Central New Jersey

JUNE 2007

Dear Friend,

I would like to give you an update on some of the work that I have been doing in Washington, D.C. and in New Jersey on your behalf.

The new Congress has brought a new agenda. I believe that agenda reflects the priorities of the American people better than before. We have raised the minimum wage by about two dollars an hour. The House of Representatives also has acted to lower the interest rate on college loans, expand federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, and realize recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. The Senate still must act on these items, and we must work together to address vexing problems like energy independence and affordable, accessible healthcare. In addition to these legislative priorities, there is a new emphasis on oversight – or, as I call it, auditing the books – to ensure that government agencies are performing efficiently, ethically, and effectively.

The war in Iraq remains the most important political and moral issue of our day. Our troops continue to perform admirably, even as the Iraqis fail to heal the political rifts necessary to achieve stability. However, the President continues to prosecute the war based on a failed policy and has not offered a strategy beyond endless occupation and bloodshed. I believe it is time – past time – to withdraw American forces and for Iraqis to take responsibility for their own affairs.

My continuing priority in Congress is to restore citizens' faith in government, and every day I work to accomplish this by helping individuals with problems that they face with government agencies or with corporations. This ranges from awarding overdue medals to deserving veterans, helping to secure passports or visas, and much more. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me toll free at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or stop by one of my offices to ask for help, to register an opinion on legislation before Congress, or just to say hello.

Sincerely,



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

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(1-877-874-4658)

### Washington Office:

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Please visit my website at [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov) to learn more about what I am working on for you and to sign up for my weekly e-mail newsletter, the [eGenda](#).

Since the Civil War, our nation has had a standing commitment – never fully met – to care for those who have borne the battle. Fulfilling this promise means treating the obvious physical wounds of war, as well as addressing psychological trauma and ensuring that veterans have access to effective and timely healthcare and employment assistance as they make the transition to a civilian life. The scandal over inadequate outpatient care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center has exposed that we still have much work to do if we are to fulfill our pledge.

I am currently working to pass the *Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act*, which would prohibit the government from increasing veterans’ medical, dental, and prescription drug copayments. Congress should also pass a law that would allow federal civilian and military retirees to pay TRICARE premiums with pretax dollars. I am pleased that the House of Representatives passed

my bill creating a ‘Hire a Veteran Week.’ This encourages employers to employ veterans because the skills and work ethic that they have gained through service make them excellent employees. ▶



Rep. Holt with participants at his recent roundtable discussion on issues affecting New Jersey veterans, held in Old Bridge.

## Making College More Affordable

One of the most important things we can do to ensure our economic competitiveness is to make higher education affordable and accessible for all students who are qualified and motivated to pursue it. One of the first actions of the new House majority in January was to cut the interest rate on federally-subsidized student loans from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent. If it becomes law, this will save the typical student borrower in New Jersey more than \$4,600 over the life of his or her loan.

In making higher education more affordable, we must recognize that many New Jersey



students are balancing their studies with a family and a full-time job. That is why I introduced the *Part-time Student Assistance Act*. This legislation would allow Pell Grants to be offered year-round (currently they are offered only during fall and spring semesters), permit students to earn more money without it counting against student aid, and expand child care options for students who are also parents. ▶

For several years I have been working to protect the integrity of our electoral system by insisting on the verifiability and transparency of elections. Public cynicism is at a dangerous level, as paperless electronic voting machines have left voters unsure that their votes have been counted as cast, and long lines and other forms of disenfranchisement have kept voters from the polls. Our democracy works only if we believe it does.

I am pleased to report that my legislation requiring electronic voting machines to produce a

voter-verified paper ballot for each voter will be on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives soon. I am confident that it will become law soon to allow for a smooth implementation. In addition to this legislation, which I have been advocating for years, I am also working to address other voting concerns, such as eliminating suppression and intimidation of voters, mitigating long lines at polls, ensuring that voter lists are accurate, and ensuring access to provisional and emergency ballots. ▶



Rep. Holt tours a new Head Start facility and visits with students in Franklin Township.

## MAKING INTELLIGENCE WORK

New Jerseyans understand the critical role that effective collection and analysis of intelligence plays in keeping our nation safe. This fall, Speaker Pelosi named me Chairman of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, a new body created to provide better coordination of Congressional intelligence oversight, a key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. This Panel will play a vital role in ensuring that the many agencies within our intelligence community are communicating and cooperating to produce actionable intelligence that keeps Americans safe.