



The **CALVERT COURIER**

Serving California's Forty-Fourth District

Dear Friends,

One of my goals last year was to find other ways to communicate with constituents. Recently, I started utilizing a new technology that allows me to call constituents and invite them to participate in a live “telephone town hall”—essentially a conference call. Over the past few months I have called the available numbers for the entire California 44th Congressional District. One call reaches up to 40,000 households! From the calls, there were a few questions that were asked repeatedly and inside this newsletter the answers to those questions are provided. It has been a pleasure to speak live with constituents and hear your concerns.

Living in Southern California unfortunately means spending too much time on the roads and transportation is an issue on most people's minds. I'd like to highlight an initiative that my office has been working on. My office continues to increase and secure federal funds for transportation projects, both nationally and in the southern California region. However, Congress and the appropriations process in particular do not exactly operate in a timely and efficient manner. Our communities and businesses must have a reliable, steady source of funding for long-term infrastructure projects.

In short, our country needs a national freight strategy—both to move freight more efficiently and to relieve the impacts on our local streets. My bill, called the ON TIME Act - Our Nation's Trade Infrastructure, Mobility, and Efficiency Act—would direct the Department of Transportation to define corridors impacted by goods movement. A value-based fee would be collected on goods moving both in and out of any port of entry and 100% of those funds would be returned to the impacted corridor for transportation improvement projects—like the many grade separations we need in Riverside and Orange Counties. If the Port of Los Angeles brings in \$100 million worth of revenue from the fee the entire \$100 million will go into transportation projects in the corridor up to 300 miles from the Port of Los Angeles. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this vital legislation.

Please look on the back panel for an Election Alert. It is an honor to represent you in Congress and please contact my office with your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ken Calvert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

P.S. Please sign up for my e-newsletter through my website at www.calvert.house.gov.

Contact Representative Ken Calvert at one of the following addresses or through his website www.calvert.house.gov:

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Phone: (202) 225-1986
Fax: (202) 225-2004

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
3400 Central Ave., Ste. 200
Riverside, CA 92506
Phone: (951) 784-4300
Fax: (951) 784-5255

ORANGE COUNTY
26111 Antonio Pkwy, Ste 300
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
Phone: (949) 888-8498
Fax: (949) 888-8524

Congressman Calvert Answers the Tour



IN MAY 2007, Rep. Calvert toured the southern border with the Border Patrol and CA National Guard.

What is your stance on illegal immigration?

Rep. Calvert is completely **opposed to amnesty** and has voted against providing federal funding to illegal immigrants. It is fundamentally unfair to grant our highest honor —U.S. Citizenship—to people whose first actions were to break our laws. The United States is the most generous immigration country in the world and we should not dishonor those who apply to enter the U.S. legally by granting those here illegally a path to citizenship.

The U.S. needs to be more proactive in battling illegal immigration. In 1996, Rep. Calvert wrote and passed legislation that created the Basic Pilot Program, now known as E-Verify. The program, originally only available to five states, is now available nationwide and has over 31,000 employers participating. The system allows an employer to check the veracity of identification documents provided for the I-9 form. Rep. Calvert introduced a bill, H.R. 19, which would make employment verification mandatory. Until the magnet of jobs is cut off, the U.S. will never truly have control of our borders. Along with employment verification, it is imperative

to build the border fence and provide the necessary number of Border Patrol agents.

What have you done to help improve transportation?

Since Rep. Calvert took office in 1992, transportation has been a top priority. Federal funding secured for transportation includes:

- \$5.875 million for the Green River Road Bridge Replacement Project, currently under construction, and for the 91 Freeway Choke Points Elimination Project.
- \$38.67 million for grade separations in Riverside County.
- \$4.7 million for the Riverside and Corona Transit Centers.
- \$119,596,000 in grants for improvements to the 60/91/215 Interchange which was completed in December 2007.
- \$15.8 million, with the help of Rep. Gary Miller (Diamond Bar) and former Rep. Christopher Cox (Newport Beach), for studies to determine the feasibility of a new highway between Riverside County and Orange County.

To ensure the 91 Freeway is more like a highway than a parking lot, we must maximize the 91 freeway by expanding its capacity. We must also develop an alternative transportation corridor connecting Riverside and Orange Counties.



ON VETERANS DAY Rep. Calvert visited with local veterans to discuss issues important to their community.

igh Questions

What is being done to help with the increase in foreclosures due to sub-prime mortgages?

Home ownership is a central part of the American dream and all Americans should be able to experience the proud feeling of owning a home. However, Rep. Calvert does not support a taxpayer bailout for homeowners who find themselves failing to meet their financial commitments.



REP. CALVERT meets with seniors at the San Clemente Senior Center to discuss Medicare and Social Security.

There are other solutions to help ease the situation many honest homeowners find themselves in, such as increasing the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loan limit. A bill Rep. Calvert voted for, H.R. 1852, will:

- Increase FHA loan limits from \$362,000 to \$500,000.
- Extend the maximum length for an FHA loan term from 35 to 40 years.

In September, Rep. Calvert attended a Foreclosure Workshop in the district which over 300 of our neighbors attended. Foreclosure is the least desirable option for all involved. The workshop explored ways to avoid foreclosure, keeping families in their homes and continuing the American dream of homeownership. If you are in need of assistance, NeighborWorks, a national nonprofit organization created by Congress, has established a hotline for American homeowners having trouble paying their mortgages. The hotline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is staffed by foreclosure prevention counselors. The phone number is **888-995-HOPE (4673)**.

Americans continue to fight and die in Iraq. What is your stance?

"The most difficult part of this job is making the decision to send fellow Americans into war. My congressional district has lost 18 brave men and women to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and across our country there are families in mourning over the loss of a loved one. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends who must endure such grief. The sacrifices of our soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen are now part of a proud American history and they will not be forgotten"

– REP. KEN CALVERT

There is no doubt that the U.S. faces innumerable challenges ahead and Iraq's problems will require long-term attention. The short-sighted "strategy" of bringing the troops home now would only ensure that America will return to Iraq at some later date and perhaps at a higher price. This is the second time in 15 years the U.S. has exerted force in the region and we must ensure it is the last time. The reality is that a premature drawdown of our forces will exacerbate tensions and conditions in the Middle East. It will condemn Iraq to escalating violence and the disintegration of their government which will have profound implications for our security and economy for decades to come.

In the fall, General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker provided a frank and honest assessment of the situation in Iraq and Rep. Calvert thinks their progress merits congressional support for their continued mission. The Iraqi political situation must progress and begin to match the improving security situation.

What are you doing to stop Mexican trucks from entering the U.S.?

Rep. Calvert voted on three different occasions this year to stop and delay the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Mexican trucking program.

In May, he voted for the Safe American Roads Act, H.R. 1773, which limits the authority of the Secretary of Transportation to grant authority to Mexican motor carriers to operate beyond United States municipalities and commercial zones on the United States-Mexico border. The Senate has not acted on the bill. Also in May, he voted to delay the Mexican trucking pilot program and supported provisions in the Iraq Supplemental Funding bill to require DOT to suspend the pilot program pending a safety report by the DOT's inspector general and a department response to that report. However, the department issued that report September 6, 2007 and initiated the pilot program one hour later.

In July, Rep. Calvert supported an amendment to the FY2008 Transportation-HUD measure (HR 3074) that would bar funds from being used for the pilot program allowing up to 100 Mexican

trucking companies to operate in the United States beyond a 25-mile radius of the border. The amendment was also recently approved by the Senate.



REP. CALVERT attends a groundbreaking for the new Reserve Training Center at March Air Reserve Base

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC 20515-3518

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California

Support the Troops

In a recent e-newsletter survey by Rep. Calvert, he asked families with a loved one in the military deployed overseas if they have received support from the local community. An astounding 45% said "no." If you are a family member who needs some help or support while your loved one is deployed, please contact the March Air Reserve Base Airman Family Readiness and Support Office at (951) 655-5350. For Camp Pendleton families, call 1-800-342-9647.

For more information please visit
www.americasupportsyou.mil



What have you done to help Border Patrol Agents Compean and Ramos?

Rep. Calvert is a co-sponsor of Rep. Duncan Hunter's legislation (H.R. 563) to provide both Ramos and Compean with a congressional pardon.

On December 1, 2006 he sent a letter, along with several other colleagues, requesting Chairman Sensenbrenner hold hearings as soon as possible. He also joined with other colleagues in sending a letter on December 7, 2007 to the President asking him to commute the sentences of both Ramos and Compean.

"We should not unjustly punish those who guard our borders while protecting the 'rights' of foreign drug smugglers."

— REP. KEN CALVERT

Handwritten signature of Ken Calvert.

M.C.

PRE-SORT STD
ECR/WSS

"I value your input and opinion, please take the time to fill out and return the survey below. If you would like to save postage, please visit my website at www.house.gov/calvert to fill out the survey."

– REP. KEN CALVERT

2007 Information Survey

LOCAL

How long have you lived in the area?

How long have you lived in the state?

What are the top three issues on your mind:

- 1) _____

- 2) _____

- 3) _____

GOVERNMENT

How would you rate the following levels of government?

- | Federal | State | Local |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Good |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |

Please share your thoughts on government:

HEALTHCARE

Do you have health insurance?

- Yes No

If yes, how do you obtain your health insurance?

- My employer or my spouse's employer
 Government program
 I pay out-of-pocket for my own health insurance

How would you categorize the current state of health-care in the U.S.?

- Excellent Good Fair Poor

Do you think a universal government-run healthcare system is a good idea for this country?

- Yes No

Would you be willing to pay higher taxes to provide health insurance for more Americans?

- Yes No

Please share your thoughts on healthcare:

THE ECONOMY

What are your economic concerns?

Please rank the below list, one being your top concern.

- ___ Jobs ___ Housing ___ Energy Costs
___ Interest Rates ___ Inflation ___ Other

What is your opinion of the following:

- | National Economy | State Economy | Local Economy |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Good |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |

How do you think Congress should address the deficit?

- Increase taxes
 Cut spending
 Cut taxes
 Do nothing

Please share your thoughts on the state of the economy.

ALERT! Did You Know You Can Register to Vote Up to 15 Days Before An Election?

In 2008, the Presidential Primary will be held on February 5th and all candidates will be on the ballot. You must be registered by January 21, 2008.

There are two other elections in 2008:

June 3, 2008 – Statewide Primary Election

November 4, 2008 – National General Election

Who Can Vote?

You must be a United States citizen, California resident and at least 18 years of age by election day.

Where do I obtain a form to register?

Your local Post Office, library, Department of Motor Vehicles, city and county offices, 800-773-VOTE or www.voteinfo.net. Mail your form to register to vote! The postage is pre-paid. Just drop it in any mailbox. Visit the appropriate website below to register to vote in your county:

Riverside County: www.election.co.riverside.ca.us

Orange County: www.ocvote.com

I value your input and opinion, please take the time to fill out and return the survey on the reverse of this page. Just cut off the panel when you are done, fold it in half, tape it closed, place a 41¢ stamp on it and drop it in the mail. If you would like to save postage, please visit my website at www.house.gov/calvert to fill out the survey.



FOLD HERE

Congressman Ken Calvert
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

PLACE
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STAMP
HERE
