

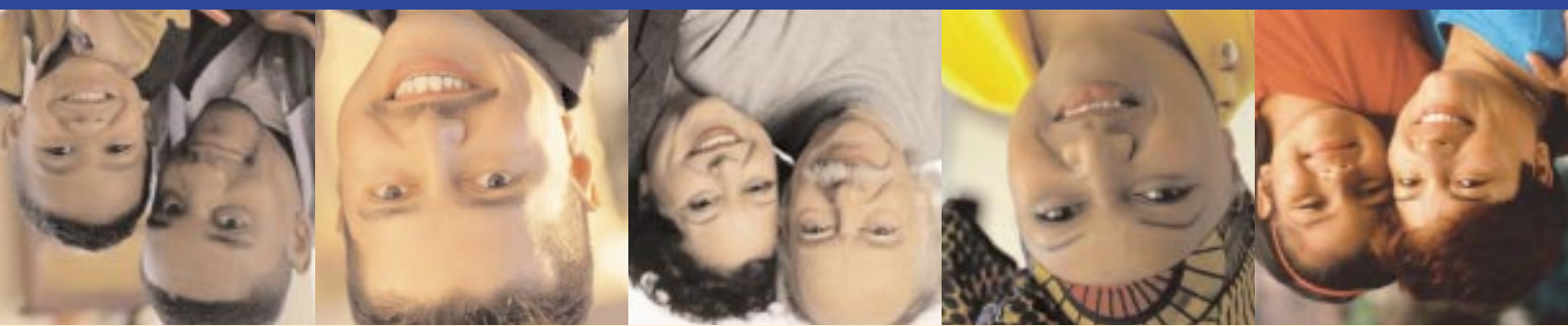


A message from
CONGRESSWOMAN
Nydia Velázquez



Your Priorities Are Her Priorities

CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ



C O N G R E S S W O M A N

Nydia Velázquez

Your Priorities Are Her Priorities

Offices to Serve You:

WASHINGTON D.C.

U.S. House of Representatives
2241 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2361

BROOKLYN

268 Broadway
2nd Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11211
(718) 599-3658

BROOKLYN

16 Court Street
Suite 1006
Brooklyn, NY 11241
(718) 222-5819

MANHATTAN

173 Avenue B
New York, NY 10009
(212) 673-3997

Our 268 Broadway office has been temporarily relocated due to office renovations. For the next 3 to 6 months the 268 Broadway office will be located at:

MOVED

**545 Broadway,
Brooklyn, NY 11211
718-599-3658**

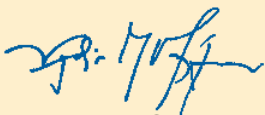
Visit my website at www.house.gov/velazquez

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

Official Business
(Union Bug)

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




M.C.
PRESORT STD
CAR-RT SORT


Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Dear Neighbors,

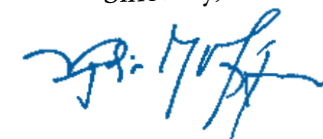
With the start of the 109th Congress, our nation continues to face challenges due to the harmful policies implemented by the Bush administration and Republican congressional leaders. We're confronted with a struggling economy, our involvement in Iraq, and a need to make our borders safe from terrorism without compromising the rights of New Yorkers.

Congress must put an end to the growing deficits that are a direct result of poor fiscal policies that threaten key investments. We will also undertake the monumental task of protecting Social Security. These critical issues will affect the future of our children, and generations to come. We must confront them now.

During the next two years, my focus will continue to be on securing more affordable housing, delivering economic development to every corner of the 12th congressional district and protecting the families in our communities from environmental hazards. As the Ranking Member on the Small Business Committee you can bet I'll continue to work to increase opportunities for entrepreneurship and to grow small businesses that are so critical in creating the new jobs our nation needs now.

There is much to be done. In the 109th Congress, you've got my word I will be fighting everyday to make sure you and your family have access to a quality education, affordable health care, and a secure retirement plan. Your priorities are my priorities. I am honored to be your voice in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Putting Your Priorities First

Fighting and Delivering for the Families of New York City's 12th District

Affordable Housing

Protecting Section 8 Congresswoman Velázquez will continue to oppose the Bush administration's plans to cut funding and dismantle the safety-net protections provided by this program. She will work to improve Section 8 to ensure that landlords remain in the program, preserving the dwindling stock of affordable housing in New York City.

Community Service Requirement The Congresswoman will redouble efforts to repeal the Community Service and Self-sufficiency Requirement and continue to work with housing officials to lessen its impact, and to ensure residents understand the process.

Helping Public Housing Residents Find Good Paying Jobs She will work to ensure that public housing residents are first in line for repair work and other improvements to their own housing developments, and she'll fight to expand job training programs that lead to long-term careers.

Realizing the Dream of Homeownership

The Congresswoman will work to give homebuyers the tools to navigate the complex process through homebuying counseling and other programs, and to prevent the elderly, minorities, low-income families, and other vulnerable consumers from being taken advantage of by predatory lenders.

From Public Housing to Homeownership She will seek to enhance existing programs and develop new initiatives to help public housing residents locate suitable housing and secure financing to purchase a home.



Congresswoman Velázquez speaks to constituents about the importance of access to safe and affordable housing.

Economic Development

Spearheading Programs to Assist Small Businesses As the Ranking Democrat on the Small Businesses Committee, Congresswoman Velázquez will fight hard to expand and strengthen contracting, business development, and lending programs at the Small Business Administration.



Support Start-up Businesses To assist up-and-coming entrepreneurs, and foster growing small businesses in local communities, the Congresswoman will pursue the development of a network of small business "incubators" that will provide the affordable space, access to capital, technical and financial training necessary to launch successful companies.

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) The CRA is the only tool low-income communities have to ensure that lending institutions are investing in their neighborhood. Congresswoman Velázquez will continue to oppose attempts to weaken the CRA.

Health Benefits for Small Business Owners and Their Employees More than 60% of the 37 million adults and 8 million children in the US that are uninsured are small business owners, their employees and their families. The Congresswoman will work to see that small business owners and their workers have access to affordable health care.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Increasing Homeland Security Protections

Congresswoman Velázquez will work to make sure federal homeland security funding is directed to New York's critical infrastructure, including power plants, subways, bridges and tunnels – and to ensure our first responders have the resources they need.

Reducing Environmental Hazards and Ensuring Livable Communities

Too many families from low-income and working-class communities are exposed to environmental hazards. The Congresswoman will work to make sure that new, tougher protections are in place to protect New York families.

The concentration of pollution-producing facilities in densely populated neighborhoods poses serious health risks for residents and damages the welfare of the entire community. The Congresswoman will pursue new initiatives that will require potentially polluting facilities to invest in the health, economic development, and overall quality of life in their surrounding communities.



Secure Retirement for NYC Seniors

Protecting Social Security The Congresswoman will work to ensure all workers receive the benefits they were promised – and will fight every effort to dismantle Social Security and the protections it affords. In addition, she will work to expand pension benefits for workers and small businesses by making it easier to save for retirement by strengthening 401(k)s and IRAs.



Affordable and Comprehensive Medicare Coverage

Medicare premiums have more than doubled and prescription costs are up 70% since 2001. Unfortunately, the Medicare prescription drug bill passed last year has done little to help older Americans. The Congresswoman will seek reforms to this failed measure so all New York seniors are guaranteed a real Medicare prescription drug benefit that is accessible and dependable, and allows seniors to buy less expensive, safe medications from Canada.

Investing in Working Families

Increase Vocational Training Congresswoman Velázquez will continue to lead bipartisan efforts to increase federal investment in career and technical education programs.

Affordable Child Care The Congresswoman will work to make child care services more available to all New York families.

Education Through Technology Access Congresswoman Velázquez will work to help libraries, community centers, after-school programs, and other local organizations provide technical training, adult education, family literacy services, and job skills development to New York City residents.

Expanding Financial Services She will work with local financial institutions to grow the availability of basic banking services, including low-cost checking, money transfer services, and savings products.



Congresswoman Velázquez spoke about working to increase economic opportunities for working families.

CONGRESSWOMAN VELAZQUEZ SECURED OVER \$4 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THESE 12TH DISTRICT PRIORITY PROJECTS

\$100,000 for **Graham Avenue Business Improvement District's (BID) Farmers Market in Williamsburg** to expand its farmers market to create entrepreneurial opportunities for youth in Williamsburg and provide locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables to the community.

\$200,000 for **Boricua College's Project Success in Williamsburg & Greenpoint** to provide educational classes, job counseling and vocational education to high school drop-outs.

\$200,000 for the **Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce** to promote small business investment and job creation by rebuilding a commercial area devastated by fire last year.

\$250,000 for **Maura Clarke-Ita Ford Center, in partnership with the New York City College of Technology** to provide the residents of Bushwick with educational services, entrepreneur courses, workforce preparation and skills training.

\$400,000 to create the **Garrity Post Child Daycare Center** to provide childcare and family services to residents in the surrounding Ridgewood community.

\$300,000 to **Helping Hands Unlimited's Supportive Housing Program for Women in Brooklyn** for a 20-bed transitional housing and support services project for at-risk women with HIV/AIDS.

\$300,000 to **Gowanus Canal Environmental Restoration Project in Brooklyn** for the Army Corps of Engineers to expedite possible solutions for the canal.

\$300,000 for **GOLES** to assist local merchants and low-income residents by providing small business opportunities.

\$250,000 for the **Maspeth Chamber of Commerce** to conduct a Truck Impact Study and recommend ways to increase pedestrian safety in Queens.

\$50,000 for the **Greenpoint Monitor Museum** to expand its "Road Show," which provides hands-on Civil War era history to New York City schools.

\$37,500 for the **Lower East Side BID's Greenmarket** to promote economic development and bring much-needed fresh produce to families in the community.

\$100,000 awarded to **Loisaida** for its **Youth Leadership Program** to provide youth in the Lower East Side with anti-violence and gang prevention training.

\$169,750 for the **Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation** to convert a 1.1 million square foot vacant industrial warehouse in Sunset Park into a thriving center for light industry and retail use.

\$200,000 will be allocated to **Young Dancers in Repertory** to expand art and education programs for at-risk youth, provide dance training scholarships and support the professional development of instructors in Sunset Park.

\$1 million for the **reconstruction and revitalization of a portion of Fulton Street**, a commercial strip serving the low-income communities of Cypress Hills and East New York.

\$300,000 for a **Trolley/Light-rail Feasibility Study in Red Hook** to evaluate providing transportation links between waterfront development initiatives, including Brooklyn Bridge Park.