



2009 Year in Review



# Supporting the Communities of New York's 12th District

CONGRESSWOMAN NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

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## Serving New York's 12th Congressional District

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POSTAL PATRON OR CURRENT RESIDENT  
12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
NEW YORK

M.C.  
PRESORT STD  
ECRWSS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Dear Neighbor,

As we begin the new year, the Democratic-led Congress, along with President Obama, continues to act on the priorities most important to you and our fellow New Yorkers. Efforts to create jobs, help those hit hardest by the economic downturn and secure a path to recovery are at the very top of our agenda. The work on your behalf is ongoing, but 2009 saw significant advancement for the nation and our City.

Just weeks into the 111th Congress, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act was signed into law to create jobs and jumpstart the economy. By investing nearly \$6 billion into our City, which is funding the rehabilitation of the Brooklyn Bridge and reconstruction of Nassau Ave. in Greenpoint, this bill not only helps get New Yorkers back to work; it is transforming our community. Additionally, increased unemployment assistance, job training and more food stamp benefits finally became a reality in 2009. While these are just a few of the strides made so far, they are critical landmarks on the road map to prosperity.

Although the groundwork has been laid, we are not finished until working families in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan can prosper and the American Dream is within reach for all New Yorkers. Stemming the tide of foreclosures was important to keeping Americans in their homes, but now we must put an end to risky lending practices that caused the crisis. Expanding access to an affordable education is a start, but we must also ensure students receive a quality education. Increasing health care coverage for more children is important, but no one should go without care because they can't afford it. And finally, the war in Iraq and Afghanistan must come to an end.

Now isn't a time to rest, now isn't a time to celebrate, it is a time to work harder and push further, to make even more meaningful change for the City and its residents – including you and your family. The road ahead of us is long and won't be easy. But New Yorkers have never let obstacles stand in their way. As we have done many times in the past, I know that by working together we will continue to see progress for our City and the needs of New Yorkers will be heard loud and clear in 2010.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of being your representative in the United States Congress. Please keep in touch.

Sincerely,



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

Official Business

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## Creating Opportunity for New York City's Working Families

Congresswoman Velázquez, along with her colleagues in the Democratic-led Congress, worked to bring change and restore prosperity to New York communities.

### Enhancing New York's Affordable Housing

- Improving the safety and livability of New York City's public housing by investing \$420 million – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5).
- Preserving the American Dream for many working families by making it possible to refinance faulty, unaffordable home loans – Helping Families Save Their Homes Act (P.L. 111-22).
- Created new tools for the federal government to crack down on the kind of fraud that put New Yorkers at risk of losing their homes and led to the economic downturn – Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act (P.L. 111-21).



Congresswoman Velázquez discusses her legislation to help public housing residents find work in home healthcare services.

### Ensuring New York's Small Businesses Prosper

- Crafted legislation to address the small business credit crunch, spurring \$14 billion in new loans to entrepreneurs, since February – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5).
- Helped steer \$15 billion in tax relief to small businesses, allowing them to hire more employees – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5).
- Expanding training programs that help entrepreneurs start and grow their firms – Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations and Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidation Appropriations (PL 111-8; PL 111-117).

### Spurring the Local Economy

- Extending unemployment benefits for New Yorkers hit hardest by the economic downturn – Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act (P.L. 111-92).
- Improving New York City's roads, bridges and water resources by investing nearly \$500 million in local infrastructure projects – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5).
- Expanded food stamp benefits to strengthen the safety net for our most vulnerable and put more money back into the local economy – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) and Fiscal Year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations (PL 111-80).

### Improving the Health and Safety of New Yorkers

- Extended the SCHIP program so nearly 1 million uninsured children in New York have access to health care – Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (P.L. 111-3).
- Guaranteeing access to lifesaving medical care for low-income patients with AIDS and HIV – Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act (P.L. 111-87).
- Protecting New Yorkers by increasing the prosecution of hate crimes and providing law enforcement officers with the tools they need to stop these heinous crimes – Hate Crimes Prevention Act (P.L. 111-84).

### Conserving Energy and Improving the Environment

- Supported Superfund designation for the Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek to transform these waterways into a source of pride for Brooklyn and Queens.
- By investing in energy efficiency projects, thousands of working families and seniors in New York have lower utility bills and an improved quality of life – American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5).
- Voted to expand the use of renewable energy, invest in green energy jobs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and dramatically reduce America's carbon footprint – American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454).



### Bringing an End to the War

- Voted against continued funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, so that our soldiers can be brought home safely and peacefully – Fiscal Year 2010 Defense Appropriations (P.L. 111-118).
- Requiring the Secretary of Defense to outline the exit strategy for U.S. military forces in Afghanistan – H.R. 2404.
- Supported efforts to prohibit the deployment of more troops to Afghanistan – H.R. 3699.

## Federal Funding for New York's 12th Congressional District

In 2009, Congresswoman Velázquez secured nearly \$4.3 million in federal resources to help rejuvenate the local economy and enhance the quality of life for New Yorkers.

### Good Shepherd Services

\$250,000 towards year-round, after-school programs for at-risk youth to promote individual, family and community advancement.

### Gowanus Canal Conservancy

\$300,000 to build a greenway along the banks of Brooklyn's Gowanus Canal, using plants that absorb runoff and reduce toxins in the waterway.

### Make the Road New York

\$200,000 supporting their English and Economic Literacy Project.

### Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation

\$450,000 improving the local community through the expansion and enhancement of Moore Street Market.



### New York Industrial Retention Network

\$60,000 to provide technical assistance and financing to manufacturers seeking to implement energy conservation projects.



### U.S. Army Corps

\$134,000 for the completion of the Gowanus Canal and Bay Ecosystems Restoration Feasibility Study.

### Ohel Children's Home and Family Services

\$350,000 addressing risk behaviors in elementary and high schools students that often lead to addiction and violence.

### Brooklyn Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

\$60,000 extending the "Business Incubator" programs to educate more residents on running successful small businesses.

Rep. Velázquez joins local children during the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy's "Cove Camp" as they learn about marine ecology. Seed funding for the program was provided by a grant from the Congresswoman through the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention.



### Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation

\$80,000 for the "Plan Ahead Brooklyn" program, which helps industrial businesses develop sustainable growth strategies.

### Kentler International Drawing Space, Inc.

\$100,000 expanding arts education programs for at-risk children and teenagers in Brooklyn.

### Brooklyn Heights Association

\$450,000 for historic restoration.

### El Puente

\$500,000 for the development of a community health institute and wellness center where Brooklyn youth and their families can receive assistance with disease prevention.

### St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation

\$150,000 to establish a workforce program that provides training in environmental remediation.