



CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN

Working For Memphis

This year in Congress, I worked to bring millions of federal dollars back home to improve our local economy, prevent crime, revitalize our neighborhoods and improve our healthcare infrastructure, issues you have told me are most important to you. Other legislative items I worked on this year include restoring voting rights, pursuing criminal justice reform and passing a long-term federal highway funding bill.

Bringing Federal Dollars Back to Memphis

This year, Memphis received a \$30 million Choice Neighborhood Grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to redevelop Foote Homes and revitalize Memphis by investing in schools, public transportation, and job creation.



Congressman Cohen announces a \$30 million federal Choice Neighborhood grant at Street Ministries in Memphis.

Memphis' selection as a Choice Neighborhood is the result of several years of my working closely with the City of Memphis and HUD Secretary Julian Castro. In 2012, Memphis received a \$15 million TIGER grant for the Main to Main pedestrian and bike path across the Harahan Bridge and other improvements to downtown Memphis infrastructure. The pedestrian bridge and bike path will be a tourist attraction and make our city more attractive to millennials and other bike and outdoor enthusiasts. The project has a targeted completion date of late summer/early fall 2016. Memphis also received a \$2.6 million federal grant for three new electric rail trolleys that will play an important role in economic development downtown and along South Main.

Fighting For Justice

Protecting civil rights has always been the central focus of my career as civil rights are central to our most dearly held belief of equality in our lives, our government and our nation. As Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, I fought for criminal justice reform, to end the failed war on drugs, against the police use of excessive force and to restore voting rights. In the wake of the July shooting of Darrius Stewart, I asked the Department of Justice to open an independent investigation to look for police misconduct and possible civil rights violations. My bill, the Police Training and Independent Review Act, would withhold full federal funds unless an independent prosecutor is used when police use of deadly force results in a death or injury. I also cosponsored the Sentencing Reform Act which passed the House Judiciary Committee. This bipartisan criminal

justice reform bill would reduce mandatory minimums for prior drug offenses and give greater flexibility to judges to make sure that sentences fit the crimes. The Obama Administration has begun to commute prison sentences of those who would have already completed their prison sentences under today's laws, something I have urged the President to do for many years, but we still have a long way to go. To ensure that no one's right to vote is denied, I joined my colleagues and civil rights icons Representatives John Lewis (D-GA) and John Conyers (D-MI) in cosponsoring the Voter Empowerment Act, which would restore the Civil Rights Act of 1965 provisions weakened by the Supreme Court and bring voting rights laws into the 21st century.



Congressman Cohen discusses Veterans' issues with a local Veteran.

Improving our Transportation and Infrastructure

I had the honor of serving as a member of the House-Senate Conference Committee to help negotiate a bipartisan, bicameral compromise for a long-term federal highway funding bill. This historic law funds highways and railroads that are important for Memphis's standing as a premier distribution center. Memphis has five Class I railroads and three interstate highways that run through the city. My amendment to provide local transit systems, such as Memphis Area Transit Authority's MATApplus Service, increased flexibility to enhance and improve paratransit services was included in the final bill. In addition, my bill to allow passengers to transport their pets on Amtrak trains was incorporated. The law will increase funding for buses to help improve MATA services and provide incentives for states to collect data to combat racial profiling at traffic stops. Furthermore, it continues the highly successful provision that ensures women and minority-owned businesses can fairly compete for federal contracts and reauthorizes the Export-Import Bank which will allow America's businesses to remain globally competitive.

Preventing Crime and Helping Victims

Preventing crime in Memphis as well as getting victims the justice they deserve is a top priority of mine in Congress. My amendment securing an additional \$4 million in federal funding to fight the backlog of untested rape kits was included in the 2016 government funding bill. Because of my leadership on the issue, Memphis received a nearly \$2 million federal grant from the Department of Justice to address the city's rape kit backlog. The city also received a nearly \$2 million grant from the New York County District Attorney's Office. These kits contain evidence that could help catch perpetrators and prevent additional violent attacks. I will continue to ensure that our city receives the funding it needs to eliminate our rape kit backlog.

VISIT MY WEBSITE: COHEN.HOUSE.GOV



Congressman Cohen participates in a voting rights press conference with Leader Nancy Pelosi and several other Congressional colleagues.

Helping Tennessee Patients and Hospitals

I proudly led the bipartisan effort of the Tennessee Congressional delegation to secure more than a half billion federal dollars over the next 10 years for disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments to help Tennessee hospitals and community health centers recoup expenses incurred caring for patients who cannot pay hospital bills. Regional One Health will benefit significantly from this DSH payment schedule and Memphis residents can rest easy knowing that the future of emergency, life-saving services provided there will no longer be in jeopardy due to erratic funding shortfalls.

Recommending Memphians for Federal Positions

This year, President Barack Obama heeded my recommendation and nominated current U.S. Attorney Ed Stanton III to become U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. U.S. Attorney Stanton's nomination was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in October and now awaits consideration by the full Senate. I have recommended numerous other Memphians to President Obama who have been confirmed for federal positions including:

- Judge Sheri Lipman (2014) District Court Judge, Western District of Tennessee
- Ron Walter (2014) Board of Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority
- V. Lynn Evans (2013) Board of Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority
- Judge John Fowlkes (2012) District Court Judge, Western District of Tennessee
- Judge Bernice Donald (2011) U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- Ed Stanton III (2010) U.S. Attorney, Western District of Tennessee
- Bishop William Graves (2008) Board of Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority

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Services Available Through My Memphis Office

Call my District office at (901) 544-4131 regarding

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Visas & Passports | IRS Problems
Social Security & Medicare Benefits

Veterans

We can help you with denied veterans benefits such as pensions and medical care.

Seniors, Social Security, and Medicare

We can ask the U.S. Treasury to replace lost Social Security checks, inquire on your behalf regarding Medicare reimbursement disputes and check the status of appealed decisions regarding retirement or Social Security benefits.

Service Academy Nominations

Each year, I recommend high school graduates between the ages of 17 and 23 and who live in the 9th Congressional District for admission to the United States service academies (Army, Navy, Air Force and Merchant Marines). The

recommendations are non-political and competitive and those interested should begin the application process during their junior year of high school.

Student Information

My District and Washington, D. C. offices offer full or part-time internships that utilize academic lessons in a real work environment and may qualify for college credit. We also provide information on federal student loan programs like Pell Grants and Stafford Loans. Further information is available regarding the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program, which includes the HOPE Scholarship, the Aspire Awards, the HOPE Access Grant, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship and the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant programs.



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Get Covered!

The **Healthcare.gov** insurance marketplace is now open for plan shopping and comparisons. If you have insurance coverage through the **Healthcare.gov** marketplace, your plan will be automatically renewed for 2016, but you should still visit **Healthcare.gov** to update your information, ensure you receive the full tax credit to which you are entitled, and review new options as other insurance plans that better fit your needs may now be available. Please remember the open enrollment period closes on January 31st. If you need help enrolling in coverage or have questions about plan options, you can call the **Healthcare.gov** hotline at **(800) 318-2569** or visit their website at <https://www.healthcare.gov>.

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

Steve Cohen

M.C.

Presorted Standard

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



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CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN



Winter 2015/2016

District Issues Meeting
Please Join Me!

Friday, January 15, 2016
10:00am-12:00pm

The Clifford Davis/Odell Horton Federal Building
167 North Main Street, Suite 369

RSVP (901) 544-4131

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