

THIS MAILING WAS PREPARED, PUBLISHED, AND MAILED AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE



OFFICIAL BUSINESS
www.culberson.house.gov
(713) 682-8828
Houston, Texas 77024
10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 620
U.S. Congressman John Culberson



Prstd Std
Mail account
#27979

M.C.
John Culberson

Committee on Appropriations

**Subcommittee on
Homeland Security**

**Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice and Science**

Assistant Republican Whip



Houston District Office

10000 Memorial Drive
Suite 620
Houston, TX 77024
(713) 682-8828
fax: (713) 680-8070

Washington, D.C. Office

428 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2571
fax: (202) 225-4381

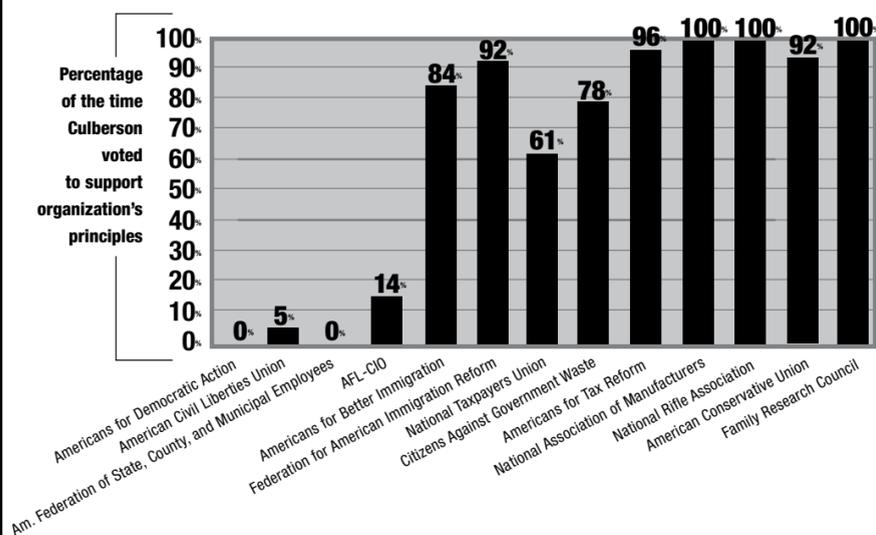
Internet:

www.culberson.house.gov

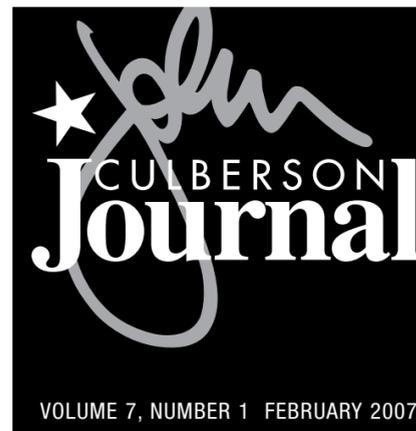
Log onto this website
to sign up for
email reports on legislation.

John Culberson's Voting Record

Percentage is based on the most recent congressional votes scored by a variety of interest groups ranging from liberal to conservative (from left to right)



Use an internet search engine to find these organizations' websites so you can analyze my votes for yourself.



Ensuring America's Strength, Freedom, and Prosperity

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1 FEBRUARY 2007

Dear District Seven Neighbor:

Although Republicans no longer control the House or the Senate, you can still count on me to fight for secure borders, lower taxes, balanced budgets, and more accountability in government.

As we begin a new session of Congress, there are significant challenges facing this great nation. Our borders are still dangerously unprotected and our immigration laws are not being enforced by Homeland Security. Victory in Iraq continues to elude us. Budget deficits and the national debt threaten our future growth. The tax cuts that led to our economic recovery are set to expire. And a handful of corrupt elected officials have tarnished the public image of our government.

Despite all of these challenges, we can succeed if we follow the simple rules of listening to our constituents, representing their views, and keeping our word. America's greatest asset has always been her people, and we lost control of Congress partly because too many Republicans failed to listen to the American people. Our majority also failed to advance the principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and individual freedom. I am deeply committed to these principles and am working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure America's continued strength, freedom, and prosperity.

I have kept my seat on the Appropriations Committee and have been named to the Subcommittee on Homeland Security and the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science. As a dedicated fiscal conservative, I use my influence on the Committee to cut wasteful spending and to eliminate ineffective or duplicative government programs. My starting answer for spending requests is always "no". "Yes" has to be earned based on our core principles.

The Homeland Security Subcommittee assignment gives me the opportunity to help direct our limited tax dollars towards safeguarding our borders, ports, airports, refineries, and other critical infrastructure. My primary focus is sending resources to the Texas border county sheriffs so they can hire and train additional deputies and provide a much-needed second line of defense to the Border Patrol. The Commerce, Justice and Science assignment enables me to support NASA, the Texas Medical Center, and critical medical and scientific



Congressman Culberson's highest priority is protecting our borders. On January 29, 2007, he met with Hudspeth County Sheriff Arvin West, El Paso County Sheriff Leo Samaniego, and Hudspeth County Chief Deputy Mike Doyal at Neely's Crossing along the Rio Grande. Sheriff West shows Congressman Culberson a route built and rebuilt by smugglers. The smugglers are protected by the Mexican Army and heavily armed mercenaries, who have had repeated shoot outs and armed confrontations with U.S. law enforcement.

research and development, as well as oversee law enforcement programs administered by the Justice Department.

In this newsletter, you will find information on the war in Iraq, Houston Metro, the Katy Freeway reconstruction, stem cell research, and my upcoming town hall meetings. I hope you will take the time to attend one of these meetings so that I can hear from you and take your thoughts, ideas and suggestions back to Washington.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent you in the United States Congress.

Sincerely,

John Culberson
Member of Congress



LETTING TEXANS RUN TEXAS





TOWN HALL MEETINGS

You are invited to attend my upcoming town hall meetings (pictured left), where we will have the opportunity to discuss important issues.

Tuesday, February 20

Memorial High School • 935 Echo Lane
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 21

Jersey Village High School • 7600 Solomon
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 22

Rice University • Shell Auditorium, McNair Hall
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

War on Terror

The United States cannot win the War on Terror without securing our borders or achieving victory in Iraq. Retreating now would dishonor the sacrifices of our armed forces and doom the region to chaos and warfare. Abandoning the Iraqi people to radical insurgents could lead to a hostile Taliban-style government in the heart of the Middle East, which would pose a serious threat to our national security and embolden terrorist organizations around the world.

I support the President's plan to boost troop levels in Baghdad by 21,500 soldiers. The only way the U.S. can achieve stability at this point is to commit more troops, give the military the freedom it needs to clear out terrorist havens, and compel the Iraqi government to take an increased role in the country's security operations.

Iraq has made considerable progress since the removal of Saddam Hussein. Despite threats of violence, nearly 60 percent of Iraqis turned out to vote for a parliament and ratify a constitution. However, increasing sectarian violence has cast a shadow over their fledgling democracy. By sending more forces to Iraq, the U.S. can help Iraq's establish control over their infrastructure and population, which will allow a smooth transfer of power from Coalition Forces to the Iraqi people. American soldiers can then relocate from dangerous population centers to strategic positions where they can intercept the flow of weapons, material and insurgents from states like Iran and Syria.

I understand why many Americans question our country's role in Iraq, and I share their frustration with the level of progress we have achieved, but we need to remember that the problems in Iraq will not disappear by giving up now. The fate of the Iraqi nation is hanging in the balance, and it is time for Americans to unite and resolve this challenge.

I welcome efforts by the new Demo-

cratic majority to seek bipartisan solutions, rather than rehashing the criticisms of the past. Cynical rhetoric intended to score political points is dangerous because the decisions we make in Iraq today will have far-reaching consequences for our country in the future.

Invading Iraq in 2003 was the right decision, and our armed forces executed the invasion brilliantly. Saddam Hussein was a brutal dictator who violated basic human rights, used chemical weapons against his own citizens, and was responsible for executing over 400,000 Iraqis. Unfortunately, the leadership at the Pentagon made poor decisions following their initial success. We must learn from our previous mistakes and grant military leaders the manpower and discretion they need to accomplish their mission.

Our military forces are performing admirably under difficult situations and deserve recognition for their bravery, courage, and sacrifice. Congress should not punish or endanger our service men and women by cutting off their funding and playing politics with the war. I am honored to represent members of the armed forces who are dedicating their lives to protecting our country, and we should ensure they are given the resources they need to do their job.

Plan for METRO's University Line

If you follow the ongoing debate over rail on Richmond Avenue through the *Houston Chronicle*, you might think that opposition to rail on Richmond is limited to a small but vocal minority of people who live or work on Richmond. In fact, 97 percent of the home, business and property owners on Richmond who have contacted my office strongly oppose rail on their street, even though 9 of the 10 voting precincts in the Richmond corridor supported the rail referendum in 2003.

The most important and overlooked

fact in this debate, and the reason many people in the Richmond corridor supported the rail referendum, is that the ballot language and the accompanying maps specifically referred to "Westpark." METRO provided its board members with a detailed Key Map of the entire METRO Solutions rail system in July 2003.* This map clearly shows the proposed rail line extending southwest from the existing Main Street Line along State Highway 59 to Westpark and ending at the Hillcroft Transit Center. METRO actually studied and rejected the idea of rail on Richmond in 2003 because of the immense difficulty of building rail down the middle of a major thoroughfare with at-grade crossings at busy streets like Shepherd, Kirby, and Buffalo Speedway. I am working with METRO on a line that complies with the ballot language and protects local neighborhoods by running within the Southwest Freeway right-of-way to Westpark, without taking a lane of traffic or homes on the north or south side of the freeway.

Some supporters of rail on Richmond accuse me of applying a double standard because I spearheaded the expansion of the Katy Freeway, but the Katy Freeway cannot be moved. It was built in 1952, long before neighborhoods and businesses supplanted the rice fields and prairies around the Interstate. The homes and businesses along Richmond have enjoyed the street's oak-lined median for generations. Richmond was never intended to be a rail corridor. Since 2000, I have promised to expand the Katy Freeway as soon as possible, and the idea received overwhelming support. My support for the I-10 expansion is not a political calculation; it's the fulfillment of a promise.

At President Gerald Ford's funeral, he was remembered repeatedly as someone who kept his word. Whenever my service to the people of District 7 is complete, I hope that I will be remembered for keeping my word. I promised to honor the results of the 2003

referendum, and I have kept my word. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I secured \$12 million for engineering on METRO's north and southeast rail lines last year and \$6.5 million for its bus service over the last two years. I also helped METRO get reimbursed for 50% of the construction costs of the Main Street Line, which it built without seeking FTA approval, by putting language in the transportation bill requiring FTA to reimburse METRO for half of the \$340 million line.

Throughout my 20 years in public service, I have done my best to protect the quality of life of my constituents. Fighting to keep rail off of Richmond is no different. The people approved "Westpark" and the METRO Board made the solemn promise in the 2003 ballot resolution that the election "will be binding on METRO and will constitute [a] contract with the voters...and may not be repealed, altered or rescinded by any succeeding Board without voter approval at a subsequent election." Our greatest asset in life is our good name. Good names are earned by keeping your word. METRO should keep its word by building rail on Westpark instead of Richmond.

*To view this map, please visit www.culberson.house.gov

Katy Freeway Progress Report

My first priority as Congressman was to ensure the Katy Freeway was rebuilt as fast as humanly possible. I am pleased to report that due to the round-the-clock work of TxDOT and its contractors, reconstruction will be complete as early as next summer, well ahead of schedule. Under the leadership of Gary K. Trietsch, TxDOT District Engineer for the Houston region, along with Clifford Halverson and Greg Ranft, Area Engineers TxDOT has overcome numerous obstacles and construction has proceeded smoothly.

In 2001, the reconstruction was scheduled to take 10-12 years to complete, and was \$250 million short of funding. Harris County Judge Robert Eckels had the visionary idea of building locally-owned and operated toll lanes down the center of the Freeway to help pay for construction and maintenance costs, and I pushed the application for the first combination toll road/interstate through the federal bureaucracy and won its approval. A recent report by the Texas Transportation Institute estimates that the rapid pace of Katy

Freeway reconstruction has led to billions of dollars in net cost benefits due to fuel and time savings, minimized business disruption, economic development, and other factors.

The last major component of the project involves demolishing and reconstructing the ramps at Beltway 8. TxDOT has developed an accelerated reconstruction schedule that closes three of the eight connector ramps at one time, which will lead to some short-term difficulty for drivers while saving months of long-term inconvenience. Just as you pull a Band-Aid off quickly, this last step will be painful while underway but will last for a much shorter time.

For more detailed information and a construction schedule, please visit www.katyfreeway.org

Stem Cell Research

I am one of the strongest supporters of scientific and medical research in Congress because I am convinced that scientific and medical advances are key to America's future prosperity and they are the best guarantee that our children's lives will be better than our own. Therefore, in the vitally important debate over federal funding of human embryonic stem cell research, I accept at the outset that scientists will undoubtedly make great discoveries some day through stem cell research that will cure diseases and save

lives. The urgent ethical and moral dilemma we must resolve then is where should we obtain the stem cells?

Our laws are all built upon the premise of protecting life, and should never permit the deliberate creation of human embryos for the purpose of harvesting them like a crop of corn, as the recent stem cell bill would, which is why I voted against it. This would be an appalling prospect for our nation's moral foundation, and is completely unnecessary because there are other sources of stem cells that do not involve creating embryos to destroy them.

I support the research on existing embryonic stem cells lines and the recent discovery of stem cells derived from amniotic fluid, as well as treatments developed from cord blood, bone marrow, and other sources of adult stem cells. I have co-authored legislation creating cord blood banks and funded research of alternative, non-destructive methods of utilizing stem cells. I will continue working hard to increase funding for medical and scientific research through the Texas Medical Center, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and to open up research opportunities for scientists that preserve the core principle that our laws should always protect human life.



On January 19, 2007, Congressman Culberson meets with Former Astronaut Dick Covey and NASA Administrator Mike Griffin at a Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership banquet honoring Dr. Griffin. Photograph courtesy of the Boeing Company.

