



VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1 AUGUST, 2002

LET TEXANS



RUN TEXAS

Congressional Report and Katy Freeway Update

THE 107TH CONGRESS of the United States began on January 3, 2001, with a balanced budget, a large tax surplus and, before the end of the year, we had paid off \$453 billion of the national debt. On September 11, 2001, terrorists launched a sneak attack on our homeland, and America was at war.

President George W. Bush has proven that he is magnificently suited to lead America as a wartime President. His focus and his determination to win this new war is inspirational, and I will do everything in my power as your Congressman to help him. America will defeat the evil fanatics who started this war just as surely as we defeated the evil fanatics who launched the sneak attack of December 7, 1941.

Today, the tax surplus and the balanced budget have vanished, and our payments on the national debt have ended. Our economy was already slowing down when we went to war, but the ripple effect of the 9/11 attack heightened our economic slowdown. Tax revenue then dropped dramatically, and unfortunately, liberals in Congress have not been able to resist raising federal spending at twice the rate of inflation. This is one of the reasons I voted against the Farm Bill. We are spending too much money at a time when we need more tax cuts.

My guiding principle is to let Texans run Texas by preserving and expanding Texas' original sovereign authority to control internal, intrastate issues under the 10th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. My primary goals nationally are to enact a balanced budget Constitutional amendment, pay off the national debt and abolish the income tax by replacing it with a national consumption tax collected by the states. I am also focused on protecting our borders and stopping illegal immigration. Locally, my highest priority is to open up the Katy Freeway ASAP.

I have represented west Harris County for 15 years, first in the Texas House from District 130, and since January 3, 2001, in the U. S. House. I am very grateful for the privilege of representing you, and will do my best to represent you with integrity and consistency as a free-market fiscal conservative who remembers his job description: *representative*.



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Log onto this website to sign up for email reports on legislation and updates on I-10.

The anthrax attack on my Washington office last October has led to significant delays in mail deliveries. I also insist on reviewing, editing and signing as many letters as possible, and we receive hundreds of letters and e-mails each week. If you write or e-mail me, please be patient.

Town hall meetings will be held in October in the Alief area, Tanglewood and Memorial. Watch the news and your mail for times and locations.

I am a guest on the Jon Matthews show every Friday morning on KSEV AM-700 from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.

Promises Made. Promises Kept.

Take back Texas prisons

MY ELEVEN-YEAR BATTLE to take back Texas prisons from the control of the federal courts has finally succeeded. On June 17, 2002, the thirty-year old Ruiz lawsuit ended when federal District Judge William Wayne Justice quietly signed a one-page order dismissing the entire case. This means no more prison population caps which could force the early release of dangerous criminals, and no more excuses from elected officials who used to be able to blame the federal court for prison problems. *Texans now run Texas prisons.*

Tax Cuts

I WORKED HARD TO HELP pass the President's original \$1.62 trillion tax cut, and it was signed into law on June 7, 2001. The Bush tax cut lowers tax rates by up to three percentage points, reduces the marriage penalty, doubles the per child tax credit, and eliminates the death tax. Due to strenuous Democrat opposition to this and other tax cuts, Republicans could not muster the 60 votes Senate rules require to give a bill permanent effect, so all of the tax cuts

expire in 10 years. The death tax will return, along with all of the other taxes we cut, unless we can generate 60 votes in the Senate. I helped pass bills in the House that make the tax cuts permanent, but Democrat majority leader Senator Tom Daschle will not bring these bills up for a vote. The best long-term solution would be to abolish the income tax and replace it with a national consumption tax collected at the point of sale by the states.

Balanced Budget

IT IS VITAL THAT Congress enacts a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I have co-authored a balanced budget amendment, and will work hard to see that it becomes law. In the meantime, I will continue to fight to reduce federal spending.

Pay off the National Debt

AMERICA'S MOST URGENT financial obligation is to pay off the national debt. Last year, Congress passed a budget with my support that pays off the national debt as fast as possible without incurring billions of dollars in early payment penalties. After the

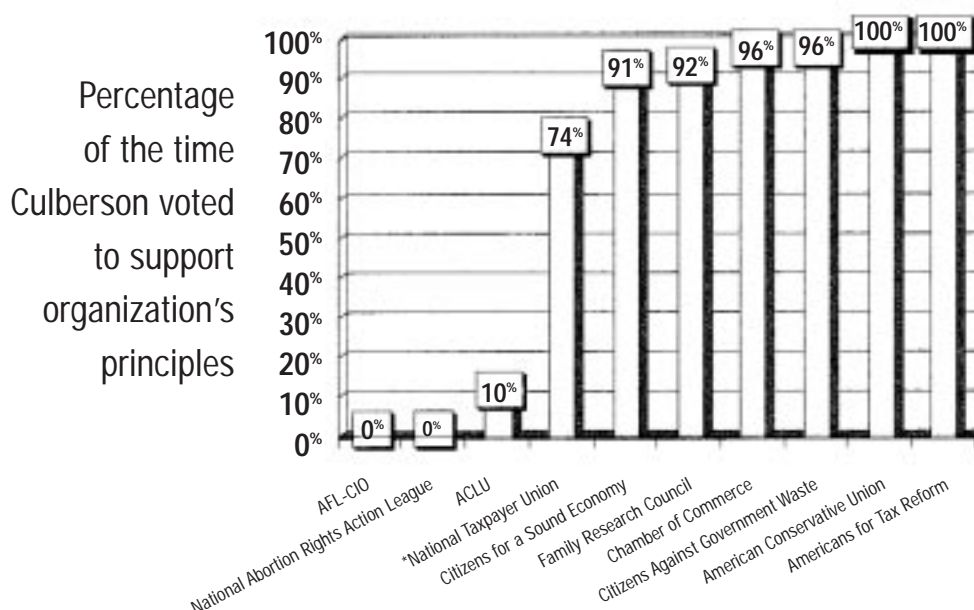
Republican majority took over in 1995 and balanced the budget, Congress began to pay down the national debt. So far, we have paid off \$453 billion of the nearly \$4 trillion publicly held debt. It is unconscionable to leave this huge debt for our children.

Immigration

PROTECTING AMERICA'S BORDERS is especially important after the attack on our homeland on September 11, 2001. Congress should immediately declare a minimum six-month moratorium on all immigration just to help our law enforcement and border security agencies catch up with their huge, unmanageable backlog. I voted against, and will always oppose, amnesty for illegal aliens, and have repeatedly called for lining up the National Guard from Brownsville to San Diego, if necessary, to stop illegal immigration. The federal government could also hire off duty law enforcement officers to help protect our northern and southern borders. Our economy depends on legal immigrant labor, so we should enact a guest worker program for industries like homebuilding to allow immigrants to work here legally.

John Culberson's Conservative Voting Record

Percentage is based on 2001 congressional votes scored by a variety of interest groups ranging from liberal to conservative (from left to right)



To see the votes that make up these ratings, use an internet search engine to find each organization's website.

*74% with the NTU = an "A"

Reconstructing the Katy Freeway ASAP

My highest local priority is to reconstruct the Katy Freeway as fast as humanly possible. Speeding up the reconstruction of the Katy Freeway will help everyone get to work more quickly, and most important of all, it will help us get home to our families more quickly and more safely.

EZ Tag toll lanes will save time and money on I-10 reconstruction.

On my first day on the job, I promised to get fast results on I-10, and to let Texans run Texas as your new congressman. Both promises have been fulfilled with the creation of the Katy Toll Road, first proposed by County Judge Robert Eckels. I have led the effort to win approval for the Harris County Toll Road Authority to build four "EZ Tag" toll lanes down the center of the Katy Freeway, and on March 19, we succeeded. These toll lanes will cut total construction time in half, and save millions of tax dollars. The toll lanes will also generate enough money, about \$500 million, to fully fund the \$1.2 billion reconstruction project from Loop 610 to the City of Katy.

Katy Toll Road users will be tolled through an EZ Tag, and users will only pay for the length of toll road they use. The "EZ Tag lanes" will be easy to enter and exit, and our toll dollars will stay in Harris County to pay for the Katy Freeway reconstruction.

Concrete barricades will be removed.

The Texas Department of Transportation, (TxDOT), will oversee construction of I-10, and they have promised that the concrete barricades on either side of the current HOV lanes will be removed in the reconstructed freeway. The only concrete barricade on the new I-10 will be the single wall dividing the freeway down the middle. The four new EZ Tag lanes will be open just like



Congressman Tom DeLay, Congressman John Culberson and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels announced federal approval of the Katy Toll Road on March 19, 2002.

the HOV lanes west of Highway 6, and at most, will be divided from the regular freeway lanes by plastic "candlesticks." TxDOT also promises that at least three lanes will be open in each direction at all times during construction.

Lane configuration.

Here's how the lanes will be configured, looking at one side of the freeway: two open EZ Tag toll lanes, four regular freeway lanes, a variable number of entrance and exit lanes, and a three lane access road. The freeway layout will include 18 lanes, and adjacent landowners will not lose any additional right of way beyond what TxDOT has already shown the public. The environmentalists who are threatening to sue to stop the reconstruction have virtually no chance of winning anything except attorney fees. There have been plenty of public hearings and input, I-10 is a transportation disaster zone, and we cannot

wait. Dirt should begin to move before the end of this year.

Commuter rail on I-10.

I do not oppose the construction of a commuter rail line along the Katy Freeway corridor as long as Metro constituents approve it. While Metro should be given a chance to present a rail plan for I-10 to their constituents, their plan must not slow down the reconstruction, and their plan must not displace any of our new freeway lanes. If their proposed commuter rail eliminates new freeway lanes or slows down the I-10 reconstruction, I will actively oppose it.

In the meantime, each day I am using every possible legislative and legal tool to accelerate the reconstruction of I-10. The first estimate was 12 years, then we got it down to 10 years, then to 8 years, and now the Toll Road could shorten it to 5 or 6 years.



John discusses the Katy Freeway reconstruction with Transportation Committee Chairman Don Young, (Alaska).

The Houston and Washington Offices for District Seven, Texas.

John Culberson

Committees: Transportation and Infrastructure; Education and Workforce; Budget, and freshman class representative on the Republican Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is chaired by Speaker Dennis Hastert and includes all of the senior House leadership. We interview and select all of the committee chairmen in the House, and make committee assignments for all other Republican Congressmen. I also serve as a member of the House Whip team, and we are responsible for counting votes and holding together House Republicans on the floor.

Responsibility for representing you rests with me, and I rely on a talented team of principled and dedicated people to help. Here they are:

HOUSTON OFFICE:

Jan Crow, District Director

Jan Crow has served west Houston as my state office district director throughout my 14 years in the Texas House. Today, in addition to representing me when I cannot attend an event, and leading our Houston district office, Jan also handles issues dealing with the I-10 reconstruction, Fannie Mae, FDIC, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Federal Trade Commission, Office of Personnel Management and the SEC.

Cynthia Dannenbrink, District Aide

Cynthia is responsible for district office casework involving: the Departments of Education, Treasury, Justice, and Interior; the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), INS, Visas and Passports, Federal Communications Commission, IRS, Postal Service, and the Texas Attorney General.

Carolyn Hodges, District Aide

Carolyn handled casework in Mr. Archer's district office, and today she oversees casework relating to military issues, Customs, the Departments of Commerce, Defense, Labor and Transportation, as well as EEOC-Equal Employment, Medicare, National Personnel Records Center, Small Business Administration and Social Security.

Judith Osborn, District Aide

Judy, another former member of the Archer team, is the district office administrative coordinator. She handles the military academy nominations, intern programs, and logistics for events such as town hall meetings.

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

Ellie Bullard, Legislative Assistant

Ellie helps analyze legislation and issues dealing with health care, Medicare/Medicaid, social security, human resources, arts and humanities, public and higher education, and veterans' affairs.

Tony Essalih, Legislative Director

Tony, a veteran of Chairman Bill Archer's D. C. office, is responsible for supervising the work of the Capitol office legislative staff. He also handles issues dealing with the budget, transportation, taxes, judiciary, and the environment. Another vital part of Tony's job is to help me with special projects, like stopping FMC from building the universally unwanted concrete batch plant at Barker-Cypress and Keith Harrow Road, and expanding I-10 ASAP.

Sarah Goldston, Legislative Aide

Sarah is the first person you will meet when visiting our Washington office, and she is responsible for scheduling tours for constituents and handling special

requests like flying a flag over the U. S. Capitol on a special date. She is also responsible for issues dealing with government reform, and postal operations.

Jamie Harper, Executive Assistant

Jamie is responsible for my complex schedule and for all of the detailed administrative aspects of operating our Houston and Washington offices.

Alicia Lee, Legislative Correspondent

Alicia has just recently joined the D.C. office as legislative correspondent. Alicia helps with daily constituent correspondence.

Paul Schulze, Chief of Staff

Paul worked for many years as a legislative aide for a former colleague of mine from the Texas House, Congressman Sam Johnson. Paul is very knowledgeable about Texas' public school system because he most recently represented the Texas Education Agency in D. C. As my Chief of Staff, Paul is responsible for ensuring good constituent services in District 7 and smooth administrative operations in both our Houston and Washington offices.

John Seale, Legislative Assistant

John also worked in Mr. Archer's D. C. office, and today he is responsible for labor, energy, small business, science, agriculture, and defense issues.

Michael Shore,

Communications Director

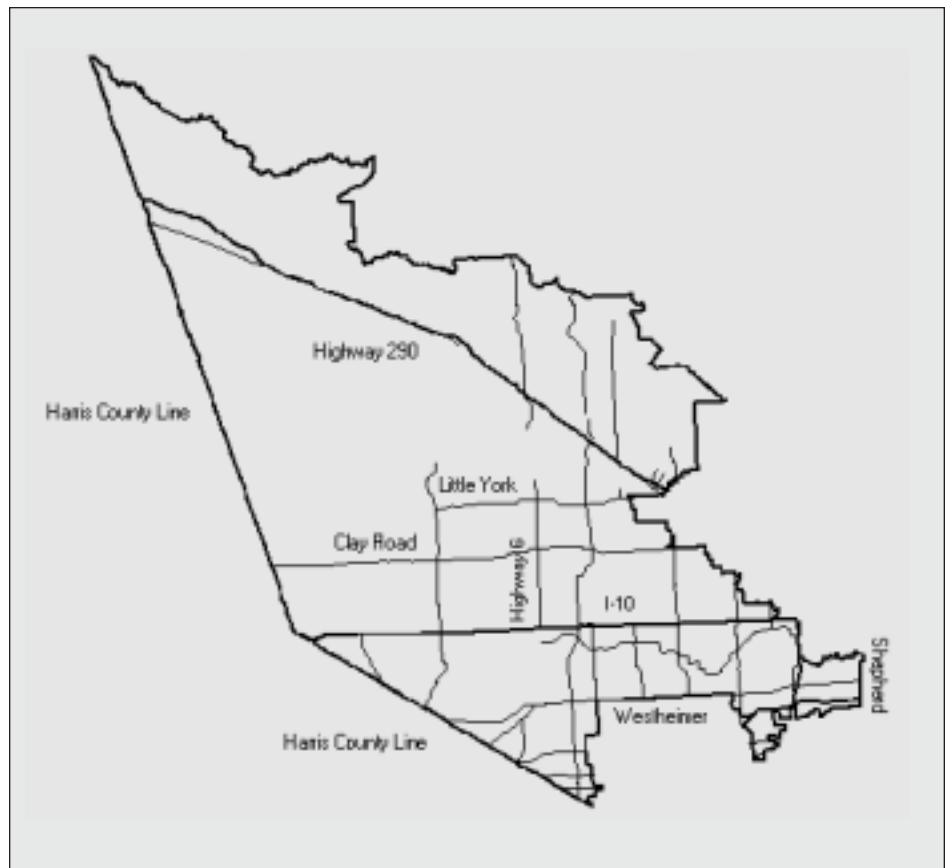
Michael worked for Senator Phil Gramm as deputy press secretary for the Senate Banking Committee before joining our office. Michael is responsible for all media and public relations, press releases, newsletters, email alerts, and maintaining the website.

District 7 survives redistricting intact in west Harris County.

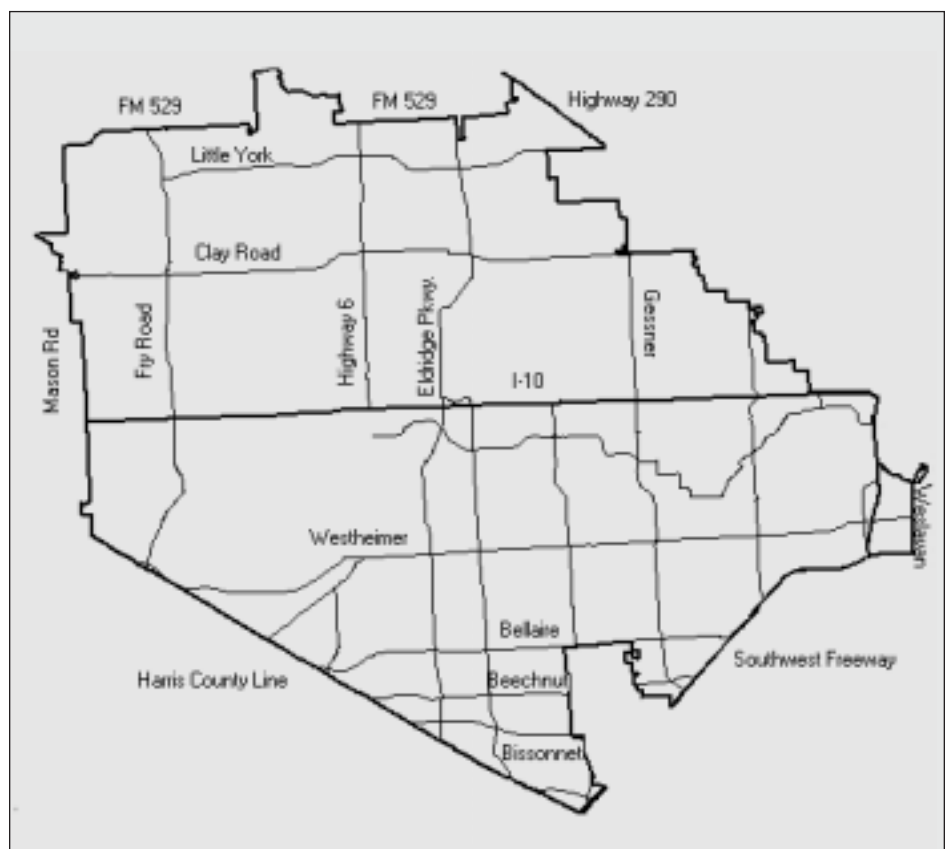
The redistricting process is complete, and District 7 has survived intact within west Harris County. Unfortunately, District 7 had to shrink geographically, which caused the loss of the areas in Harris County west of Mason Road and north of FM 529, except for a small portion of Copperfield. It was vital that District 7 stay in western Harris County as it has since 1965 because we share common school districts, common transportation problems and common quality of life issues.

The Texas Legislature did not address Congressional redistricting, so the final district boundaries were decided by a federal court last fall. District 7 could have been carved up and sent out into central Texas or down to Bay City. Carving up District 7 would not have helped increase or decrease the number of Republican or Democrat Congressmen from Texas, or have helped any public policy purpose. Just before the trial last September, District 7 constituents mailed in over 5000 post cards to protest any plan to carve up District 7. The court looked at these protest cards, along with other evidence, to keep District 7 intact in west Harris County. If you sent in a postcard asking the court to keep our district intact, thank you! It worked. Redistricting is now finished and our boundaries should remain undisturbed until 2011.

District 7 today



District 7 beginning in January, 2003





from 8:00 am to 9:00 am.

on KSEV AM-700

every Friday morning

the Jon Matthews show

I am a guest on

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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U. S. Congressman John Culberson



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The three Congressmen from District 7.



John Culberson, 2001 to date, George H. W. Bush, 1967-1971, Bill Archer, 1971-2001. Congressman Culberson met with his predecessors soon after swearing in to discuss issues confronting the 107th Congress.

Photos courtesy of Alexanders Fine Portrait Design