



REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT

# 2008 Year-end Report



December 2008

Dear Friend,

For many Americans, 2008 has been a challenging and difficult year. I have talked with families struggling in this economy - struggling to get a new job, pay for health care, meet rising food costs, and put their children through college. I have met with soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq - two wars that have gone on longer than the Second World War and whose costs we will be paying for decades to come. And many Central New Jersey residents worry about the direction the nation is headed.

As others have said, this is no ordinary time. Yet, this country has overcome grave challenges before, and we will do so again. My faith in the ability of Americans to rise to challenges is sustained by our representative form of government - the greatest the world has ever seen. Our democratic system is not the quickest in short-term response, but in the long term we have always progressed as a nation as we constantly strive to form a more perfect union.

As your representative, I value our communication and need to hear from you about the issues that affect you and your family. This report - including the map - is designed to provide an idea of what your representative can do and what services I can provide. Some of my work is conducted in Washington, giving voice to your concerns and voting on issues that affect the 700,000 residents who live in the 44 towns and five counties that comprise the 12th Congressional District. To address some local concerns, I obtained, among other things, funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to preserve open spaces; helped free middle-income families from the unfair Alternative Minimum Tax, which hits taxpayers in New Jersey more than any other state; secured \$400 million for improved transit security; and helped pass a new GI Bill that gives a full four-year education to troops and veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including members of the New Jersey National Guard.

However, a representative does much more than just vote in Washington. This report provides examples of responses to various needs that people have brought before me.

As we continue to confront the challenges that face our nation, our state, and our region, I need to hear from you. I look forward to hearing from you, whether by phone (toll-free at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT), e-mail (through [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov)), or in person in Washington or in your community. Thank you.

Sincerely,



*Rep. Holt meets with New Jersey members of AARP about successful efforts to preserve and protect Medicare, and to expand the program to include mental health parity.*

Please visit my Web site at [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov) to learn more about what I am working on, and to sign up for my weekly e-mail newsletter, the [eGenda](#).

U.S. Representative Rush Holt  
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West Windsor, NJ 08550

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**REP.  
RUSH  
HOLT**

# As your Representative in Congress, Rush Holt works to be accessible and effective.

## 12th Congressional District – Examples of some local results in 2008.

**Hunterdon County** Cosponsored and helped pass the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act to protect prospective and current employees from discrimination based on genetic predispositions.

**East Amwell** Hosted a day in Washington D.C. for Central New Jersey first responders, including Hunterdon County law enforcers.

**Jamesburg** Won approval for the Nursing School Capacity Act to study the shortage of nursing faculty and the resulting shortage of nurses.

**Franklin Township** Hosted a mental health roundtable discussion in Somerset County and helped pass a law to require mental health parity in employee benefits and to end discrimination against patients seeking treatment for mental illness.

**Marlboro** Discussed math and science education with students at Marlboro High School; wrote the law providing up-front college tuition assistance of up to \$16,000 to students who commit to teaching math and science in public schools.

**Middlesex County** Served as Chairman of the Select Intelligence Oversight Panel, which writes the budget for and provides oversight of the U.S. intelligence community.

**Lawrence** Met with 150 troops from the NJ National Guard's 50th Brigade Combat Team in June before their deployment to Iraq to hear their concerns and lend assistance; also helped pass a 21st Century GI Bill to cover the costs of their four-year college education.

**South Brunswick** Secured \$1.5 million in federal funding to support a local company's efforts to develop alternative energy, including hydrogen fuels.

**Spotswood** Helped a constituent obtain a missing \$1,200 economic stimulus check; among one of 137 district residents who received help tracking down stimulus payments.

**Middletown** Obtained \$240,000 for a job training program at Brookdale Community College to help unemployed and underemployed workers; also introduced legislation to provide grants to states to expand online job training programs.

**Stockton** Led tours of U.S. Capitol for families and groups throughout Central New Jersey, including a family from Stockton.

**Princeton** Introduced legislation to establish a 9/11-style commission to investigate the 2001 anthrax attacks and the federal government's response.

**South River** Secured \$117,500 for new communications equipment for first responders.

**Holmdel** Helped a Holmdel family cut through red tape, allowing them to adopt a child from Kazakhstan.

**Lambertville** Secured \$87,000 for the Hunterdon Medical Center's Latino Healthcare Initiative; the federal funds will enhance the project so it can meet the healthcare needs of the growing Latino community.

**Ewing** Helped a Ewing resident obtain emergency travel papers to return home after his passport had expired while he was overseas.

**Cranbury** Nominated a Congressional Page and provided internships for 36 Central New Jersey students, including two from Cranbury.

**Tinton Falls** Secured \$13.4 million to support communications, intelligence, and surveillance programs at Fort Monmouth.

**Oceanport** Hosted town hall meeting in July with an emphasis on climate change; also held town hall meetings in Franklin Township (Somerset), Holmdel, Hopewell, Lambertville, Marlboro, South Brunswick, Spotswood, Tinton Falls, and Trenton, and held three innovative telephone town hall meetings, reaching thousands of constituents.

**Mercer County** Helped pass legislation to improve Amtrak's operations, including taking the first steps to increase rail service from Princeton Junction to Philadelphia. Also, helped secure \$400 million for transit security, a 130 percent increase in two years.

**Trenton** Secured \$735,000 to improve Route 29 and \$305,000 for a crime prevention program to identify and intervene with at-risk youth.

**West Windsor** Secured \$800,000 to dredge and remove silt from Grover's Mill Pond.

**Monroe** Created a property tax relief initiative to allow more than 600,000 New Jersey homeowners who do not itemize deductions on their federal tax returns to receive a new standard tax deduction of as much as \$1,000.

**Monmouth County** Secured \$150,000 for the Crossroads of the American Revolution to protect historic landmarks such as battlefields, light-houses, mills, wells, and other Revolutionary War area sites. Also introduced the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Battlefield Protection Act.

If I can be of any help, please contact me by calling toll free 1-87-RUSH-HOLT (1-877-874-4658) or e-mailing through [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov). Also, please visit my website for more information.

*Rush Holt*

Please note that the darker green areas indicate that portions of Franklin Twp. (Somerset County), Freehold, Manalapan, Marlboro, Middletown, Old Bridge, and Trenton are not in the 12th district.

\* Map courtesy of the NJ Department of Transportation.