



JOHN LINDER

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE FOR GEORGIA



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Introduction

First Session — 111th Congress

On January 6, 2009, I was honored to be sworn in again as the U.S. Representative for the Seventh Congressional District of Georgia. I am eager to join my colleagues in the House and go to work on the major challenges facing our nation.

The dawn of a new year provides us all a time of reflection on the events of the past year. Our brave service men and women found great successes in the Global War on Terror. Their hard work and committed service has brought about a great reduction in civilian deaths and sectarian violence. Coalition forces have captured thousands of extremists in Iraq, including hundreds of key al Qaeda leaders and operatives. Most importantly, we have begun to see our troops returning home. As Americans, we have all witnessed a historic moment; the election of the first African American President. Unfortunately, we also witnessed the most severe economic downturn our nation has seen in decades. Clearly, the greatest challenge before us in 2009 is the revitalization of the economy, and while the situation may seem daunting, it is imperative that we remain deliberate and focus on the long term effects any proposed legislation might have.

I firmly believe the challenges to our economy can be met and overcome by recommitting to the core principles of our country: ingenuity, hard work and investment in the great American small business. We will begin to see our economy improve when the freedom of our markets are restored and our government stops choosing winners and losers through federal bailouts and financial assistance. Only through the renewal of opportunity for the American entrepreneurial spirit will we begin to see the clouds of doubt surrounding our nation's financial health subside.

In an effort to ensure that you have an opportunity to make your voice heard in Congress, I will be hosting two Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, February 7, 2009. The location for each is listed below:

City of Loganville
9:00 am– 10:00 am
Loganville Municipal Complex
605 Tom Brewer Road
Loganville, Georgia 30052

City of Sugar Hill
11:00am– 12:00pm
Sugar Hill Community Center
1166 Church Street
Sugar Hill, Georgia 30518

Please join me in an open discussion about the issues facing our nation. I will provide you a small summary of the issues before us in the 111th Congress and then open the floor to your questions and concerns. I look forward to seeing you and continuing this invaluable dialogue.

Sincerely,



FAIR TAX UPDATE

On January 6, 2009, the first day of the 111th Congress, I reintroduced H.R. 25, the FairTax bill, with 34 original cosponsors. With more original cosponsors than the FairTax has ever had at the time of its introduction, we were able to start the 111th Congress with yet another record breaking accomplishment.

As I look to the 111th Congress, I know that support for the FairTax will continue to grow throughout the country. With each day the grassroots movement grows larger and more powerful, and we will make our voices heard. For those of you who have been long time supporters of the FairTax, I hope that you will continue to stand with me in this critically important fight. For those who are just learning of the FairTax, I hope that you will become a vocal part of this revolution, and I invite you to learn more about this legislation by visiting my FairTax website at <http://linderfairtax.house.gov>.

THE NORTH ATLANTA VETERAN CENTER

As Americans we are very proud and honored by the sacrifice and service of so many men and women in our armed forces. Undoubtedly, those who have served us deserve the best care we can offer. Therefore, I would like to make all citizens aware of a wonderful new facility available to veterans in the Seventh District. The North Atlanta Veteran Center is located at 930 River Centre Place in Lawrenceville. The center provides many services for veterans that have served in combat. The facility specializes in counseling and readjustment services to veterans. They also have counseling for individuals, couple counseling and quite a few events specializing in outreach and community education. The center is an extension of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the services are free when you provide your DD-214.

If you would like more information regarding this facility please contact the center directly at 678-924-5719 or feel free to contact my office for more information at 770-232-3005.

2009 MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATION PROCESS

Serving your country through military service is one of the greatest gifts a citizen can give their country. It is not a decision to be taken lightly, but I certainly hope that all eligible high school seniors residing in the Seventh Congressional District who are interested in attending one of our nation's military academies will consider submitting an application for a nomination to one of the following service academies:

Military Academy at West Point, New York.
Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.
Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York.
Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

I never tire of stating that one of the greatest privileges I have as a Congressman is nominating young men and women to the United States Service Academies. Every fall so many rising seniors in the Seventh Congressional District apply for a Congressional Nomination, with the goal of obtaining one of the greatest educations in the nation. It is an important decision to attend one of the academies that prepare America's young men and women to become professional officers. There will be much hard work, and they will be held to the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty.

To be considered for a nomination a completed application must be filed with my District Office no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, October 16, 2009. If you would like to find out more about the academies, please review the following website <http://linder.house.gov/academy> or contact Annie Valenty at 770-232-3005, extension 11.



21ST CENTURY WATER COMMISSION UPDATE

The U.S. population has recently exceeded over 305 million people, and I am sure that you will agree with me that we must act now to develop a comprehensive water policy to ensure that as the population grows, all Americans will continue to have sufficient access to a fresh supply of water. It is with this in mind that I reintroduced H. R. 135 on January 6, 2009. It is my belief that H.R. 135 will help accomplish the goal of continued fresh water protection for future generation.

With the support and enthusiasm for the creation of a 21st Century Water Commission, H.R. 135 was reported out of the House Committees on Natural Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure in 2008, but unfortunately Congress adjourned before being able to consider the legislation on the House floor. I am also pleased to report that with the help of my colleague, Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), H.R. 135 was favorably reported out of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee last year for the first time. We are getting closer and closer to making this a reality, but we must continue our efforts in the 111th Congress.



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As we all know, educating the youth of our nation about the government is a critical component in continuing to build a strong nation. As your representative, I feel it imperative to afford our youth opportunities to obtain a true appreciation and working knowledge of our government. There are some opportunities available through my Seventh District Internship Program. Participation in my Internship Program is open to any college or university student and internships are available in both my Washington, D.C., Office and my Georgia District Office.

There are full-time internship opportunities available in Washington D.C. and full and part-time opportunities available locally in the Gwinnett District Office. If you or a college-age student you know is interested in learning more about the political process and how Congress really works, I encourage you to contact my Washington Office at (202) 225-4272 or my District Office at (770) 232-3005, extension 11.




2009 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

This year I am happy to participate in the Seventh Congressional District Art Competition. This district event showcases the talents of young artists within our community. The Congressional Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery" is a wonderful opportunity for all in our community to appreciate the creativity and skill of our youth. I believe it is critical that we encourage our students to developing whatever talents they may possess, and I am honored to hold this annual event.

I hope that all high school students will consider entering this worthwhile event. Entries must be submitted to my District Office by Friday April 3, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. I will also hold an awards ceremony at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville, Georgia, on Monday, April 20, 2009, at 7:00pm. The winner of the Congressional Art Competition will be invited to attend the opening of the national exhibition at the U.S. Capitol, where his or her work will be displayed in the hall leading to the Capitol for one year.

The competition is open to all high school students who reside in the Seventh Congressional District. If you would like more information about standards and requirements for this event please contact my office at (770) 232-3005.



SEVENTH DISTRICT ONLINE OFFICE

My online office at <http://linder.house.gov> is regularly updated in an effort to provide a central location that benefits citizens of the Seventh Congressional District looking for resources, information and services. The purpose of the site is to host a true online office that provides resources and services to constituents, students and those interested in legislative activities in Congress. This site allows me to continuously update information for you – empowering my constituents, improving our democracy and providing more efficient services.

The site is designed to enhance online communication with you by providing easy access to updated legislative and constituent services information. The site has prioritized regularly requested items so that they are more easily accessible for you and I will continue to provide updated resources and access to services around-the-clock. Please feel free to stop by the site at any time and review the resources and services it has to offer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

I always welcome comments from the citizens of the Seventh Congressional District. Please make note of my mailing address and phone numbers, or send an email through my online office.

MAILING ADDRESS

1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1007

ONLINE OFFICE

<http://linder.house.gov/contactjohn>

GEORGIA OFFICE

(770) 232-3005
(770) 232-2909 (fax)

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE

(202) 225-4272
(202) 225-4696 (fax)

OUTREACH PROGRAM

If you would like to **meet with a member of my staff** regarding difficulties you are experiencing with the Federal government, please contact my District Office at (770) 232-3005. My staff is also available to assist you at constituent outreach locations throughout the Seventh Congressional District at the locations and times below:

Barrow County

Piedmont Regional Library
189 Bell View Street
Winder, GA 30680

Feb 12 (10 am-12 pm)
March 12 (10 am-12 pm)
April 8y (10 am-12 pm)

Newton County

Newton County Library
7116 Floyd Street, N.E.
Covington, GA 30014

Feb 18 (1 pm-3 pm)
March 18 (1 pm-3 pm)
April 15 (1 pm-3 pm)

Gwinnett County

Grayson Library
700 Grayson Parkway
Grayson, GA 30017

Feb 4 (4 pm-6 pm)
March 4 (4 pm-6 pm)
April 1 (4 pm-6 pm)

Walton County

Monroe-Walton Library
217 West Spring Street
Monroe, GA 30655

Feb 18 (10 am-12 pm)
March 18 (10 am-12 pm)
April 15 (10 am-12 pm)

Gwinnett/Forsyth

Suwanee Library
361 Main Street
Suwanee, GA 30024

Feb 12 (5:30 pm-7:30pm)
March 12 (5:30 pm-7:30pm)
April 8 (5:30 pm-7:30pm)