

2010 Year-End Report



Working For North Texas



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A Message From Congressman Burgess

For many in North Texas and across the country, 2010 was a challenging year. I met with and heard from small business owners and residents across the District who were struggling during this time of economic hardships. Heeding the calls of North Texans, I voted against the big-government spend-and-tax agenda that the Democrats set in Washington. Once a small business owner myself, I understand the squeeze many are feeling right now, and fought for a smaller and less burdensome federal government.

Through it all, I have done my best to represent you and advocate on behalf of your best interests. I hosted dozens of events and meeting in North Texas, introduced or sponsored legislation to repeal the unpopular health reform bill, keep taxes low for all American families and businesses, and balance the federal budget.

It has been an honor to represent you for another term in the United States House of Representatives. Thank you for the opportunity you have afforded me, and please be assured that I have never forgotten that my service to our great nation is because of you.

Sincerely,



Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

2010 Highlights

- Appeared in 958 newspaper articles or blogs
- Conducted over 100 radio interviews and 61 TV interviews
- Participated in 47 hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in 16 hearings in Joint Economic Committee
- Cast 648 votes on the floor of the House of Representatives
- Introduced 7 bills
- Co-Sponsored 81 bills
- Responded to over 50,000 letters or inquiries from North Texans
- Attended 478 events in the District



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About Congressman Burgess

Dr. Burgess serves on the prestigious House Energy and Commerce Committee and is the top Republican on the Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations. He is also a member of two other subcommittees: Health Care, and Energy & Environment. He is a member of the bicameral Joint Economic Committee, and in 2009 Dr. Burgess founded, and currently serves as Chairman, of the Congressional Health Care Caucus.

Because of his medical background, Dr. Burgess has been a strong advocate for health care legislation aimed at reducing health care costs, improving choices, reforming liability laws to put the needs of patients first, and ensuring there are enough doctors in the public and private sector to care for America's patients and veterans. He has played an important role in bipartisan efforts to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and consumer products, and has introduced legislation to strengthen our ability to stop dangerous products from coming into the country.

As a Member of Congress representing one of the fastest growing areas of the country, transportation is also a top priority for Dr. Burgess. He successfully amended the 2005 Highway Bill to include development credits, design-build, and environmental streamlining. During his time on Capitol Hill, he also has worked to build, maintain, and improve the safety of our roads, bridges, air service and transit in the North Texas region.

A fiscal conservative, Dr. Burgess believes Americans deserve a federal government that is more efficient and effective, less costly, and always transparent. He follows a strict adherence to the Constitution, and opposes unnecessary expansion of the federal government's control over Americans' personal freedoms, and instead believes in giving people more control over their lives and their money.

During his time on Capitol Hill, Dr. Burgess has earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram has described him by saying, "Since being elected in 2002, [Burgess] has energetically involved himself in Congress." The Dallas Morning News asserted, "...Burgess overall has the dedication, energy and breadth of ideas...His contribution is invaluable in Washington...Burgess exhibits the kind of leadership that...is missing too often in Washington today." Recently National Journal magazine named Dr. Burgess an "Up-and-Comer" in a profile titled "Republicans To Watch If The GOP Takes Over."

While in the House of Representatives, Dr. Burgess has received several awards, including the 2008 House Legislator of the Year from the Multiple Sclerosis Society; 2005 Legislator of the Year by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; the Guardian of Small Business award by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); the Spirit of Enterprise award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; and the Taxpayer Hero award from the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste; among others.

Today Dr. Burgess represents the majority of Denton County, Cooke County, and parts of suburban Dallas and Fort Worth. He was raised in Denton, Texas and attended The Selwyn School, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian. He graduated with both an undergraduate and a Masters degree from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas. He received his M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston and completed his residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Dr. Burgess also received a Masters degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May of 2009 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center. Dr. Burgess has been married to his wife, Laura, for 35 years, and they have three children and a grandson.



Statement of Principles for Ethical Conduct

As a Member of Congress, I have an open door policy for any constituent of the 26th District of Texas to meet with me or my staff in my two Texas offices or my Washington, D.C. office. Other persons or groups representing communities, large or small businesses or themselves with concerns impacting the 26th District are welcome to request a meeting with me and my staff as well. Representing the second largest congressional district by population in the state and the eleventh largest congressional district by population in the nation, I do my very best to try and schedule as many meetings and events as possible in a timely fashion.

Such meetings or event requests are based upon need and availability and no other outside influences are taken into consideration. I take my job as a representative to the people of the 26th District very seriously and I believe that when I am called upon to make a decision, the only voices that I look to for input are those residing within the borders of the district I represent.

The people of the 26th District have entrusted me with the responsibility of this office and I am honored to have that trust. An important part of this role is transparency. As the steward of this congressional office, it is my fiduciary duty to ensure that I conduct my personal dealings and the business of this office both ethically and with dignity. Each year I provide my Financial Disclosure to the U.S. House of Representatives as required and make those available for review on my website. Additionally, each quarter the U.S. House of Representatives produces a Statement of Disbursements which provide specific information concerning the expenses and disbursements for each office. I also believe it is important to make these documents available to my constituents for review on my website. I believe it is important to be accountable and provide transparency in the dealings of our elected officials and government offices.



Statement of Constituent Principles

As your U.S. Representative I will serve as a liaison to communicate Constituent concerns before the various federal agencies. It is my commitment to assist the constituents of the 26th Congressional District of Texas to navigate the red tape of bureaucracy to provide the highest level of review and consideration within the rules and regulations of the law through the tools of agency education, presentation of case merits and when appropriate, mediation.

- **How May I Help?** - When a federal agency has failed to respond in a timely manner to a request for assistance or has otherwise been unwilling to provide a level of relief that agency regulations appear to support, a Congressional Inquiry may be utilized to seek a response. While a favorable reply cannot always be promised, every review and consideration will be afforded based on the merits of the agency concern to seek either a resolution or an explanation of the limiting legal guidelines the agency must follow in relation to your concern.
- **Review** - Together we will clarify the issue, identify your progress within the inquiry process, and develop a strategy to assist you in the most efficient pursuit of your goal. My office will serve as a mediator to ensure that your request is provided for full review and consideration by the appropriate officials.
- **Closure** - We will pursue an answer to either provide a satisfactory resolution to your concern or a clear explanation of the limiting legal guidelines that prevent the agency from providing the desired answer.
- **Empower** - We will seek to identify resources that may be helpful in further supporting and documenting your claim so you can maximize your appeal rights and other avenues that may be available for further assistance. Through this process I will seek to provide excellence in service of the constituent needs related to the agencies of the US Government.

Statement of Principles that Guide Legislative Decisions

I have a strong moral philosophy that guides my life and informs the manner in which I represent the State of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. Every vote I cast in Congress starts with you, the people of the 26th District of Texas. I was sent by the people of our district to Washington not to promote any personal agenda, but to bring your voice to our nation's capital. Before each vote I ask myself, "is the measure before us necessary, good for our district and our state, is this something my neighbors want, and is it allowed under the Constitution?" I always review your phone calls, emails, and letters before a vote to ensure that I continue to be in touch with your thoughts on the issues before Congress.

Our federal government was meant to protect the unalienable rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence. Thus, I will only support legislation that protects your constitutional rights and liberties and is allowed under the powers given to Congress under the Constitution. I also oppose legislation that is redundant, unnecessarily expands government control over our freedom, or increases the role of the federal government in your life.

In addition, I am committed to protecting your pocketbook. I will not support legislation that hurts the economy, slows job growth, raises taxes, or burdens the taxpayers of today or tomorrow with greater debt. Taxpayers deserve a federal government that is more efficient, less costly and always transparent.

I am fiscally and socially conservative, and I believe that the federal government must be responsible to the people – not the other way around. Whether through my support for a balanced budget that pays down our national debt, ensuring a strong national defense, or giving people more control over their lives and their money, I am committed to shrinking the size of government to only what is necessary to assure your freedom and protect your rights.

Legislative Work and Accomplishments

In 2010, I introduced bills dealing with legislative issues ranging from health care and taxes to energy, the economy and veterans; I amended bills where I saw improvements could be made, and have supported legislation introduced by other members when deserved; I wrote several letters calling for investigations and demanding explanations; And I cast 648 votes, always keeping in mind that I represent and work for the people of North Texas.

Sponsored Legislation That Has Advanced

- [H.R.2249](#): Health Care Transparency Promotion Act Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health Legislative Hearing held on May 6, 2010.
- [H.Res1561](#): Resolution of Inquiry Energy & Commerce full Committee Markup held on September 23rd – resolution reported without recommendation by a vote of 27-17.

Sponsored Legislation As Lead Republican That Has Advanced

- [H.R.5354](#): GEDI Act, Subcommittee hearing September 15th, Subcommittee Mark-up September 16th (reported by voice), Full Committee Mark-up September 23rd (reported by voice), House passage on September 29th by voice vote.
- [H.R.5462](#): Birth Defects Prevention, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2010, Subcommittee hearing September 15th, Subcommittee Mark-up September 16th (reported by voice), Full Committee Mark-up September 23rd (reported by voice), House passage on September 29th by voice vote.
- [H.R.1362](#): National Neurological Diseases Surveillance System Act of 2010 Subcommittee hearing September 15th, Subcommittee Mark-up September 16th (reported by voice), Full Committee Mark-up September 23rd (reported by voice), House passage on September 28th by voice vote.

Snapshot of Legislative Work and Accomplishments

- Participated in 47 hearings in the Energy & Commerce Committee
- Participated in 16 hearings in Joint Economic Committee
- Participated in over 17 markups in the Energy & Commerce Committee
- Cast 648 votes, 97.6% vote attendance record
- Introduced 7 bills
- Co-Sponsored 81 bills
- Introduced or attempted to introduce 17 amendments to legislation, including health care reform, cap and trade and financial regulation reform

For more information on my voting record, bills I have introduced and sponsored, and committee work, visit the ["About Me"](#) section of my website.



Awards

I am honored to have been awarded credentials from organizations and groups for the common-sense and pro-growth work I do on behalf of North Texans. A few of the awards I received this year include:

- American Academy of Ophthalmology
“Visionary Award”
- The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste
“Taxpayer Hero”
- International Foodservice Distributors Association
“Thomas Jefferson Award”
- The Club for Growth
“Defender of Economic Freedom”
- National Tax Limitation Committee
“A” and “Tax Fighter Award”
- National Federation of Independent Business
“Guardian of Small Business”
- U.S. English, Inc.
“A” In English”
- National Association of Manufacturers
“Manufacturing Legislative Excellence”
- American Society of Transplantation
“Gift-of-Life Legislator of the Year”
- US Chamber of Commerce
“Spirit of Enterprise”

Sponsored Legislation

- [H.R.4951](#): To amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for participation in the Exchange of the President, Vice-President, Members of Congress, political appointees, and congressional staff.
- [H. Res 1561](#): Resolution of Inquiry that requires the transfer of internal Health and Human Services communications related to the release date of Chief Actuary Richard Foster’s report on the expected costs of H.R. 3590 and H.R. 4872.
- [H.R.6005](#): To amend Medicare & Medicaid to provide for the temporary treatment of certain electronic health records as certified EHR technology for purposes of health information technology payment incentives.
- [H.R. 6169](#): To create an Alzheimer’s Treasury Bond to be used to finance Alzheimer’s related research through the Director of the National Institutes of Health.
- [H.R.6108](#): To strike certain provisions of Public Law 111-226 relating to Texas and the Education Jobs Fund.
- [H.R. 6228](#): the Leave Ethanol Volumes at Existing Levels (LEVEL) Act, to repeal certain provisions from the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act which increase ethanol volumes required to be blended with fuel.
- [H.R. 5505](#): Nuclear Used Fuel Prize Act of 2010 to implement a program to award cash prizes competitively for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of nuclear used fuel storage.

Letters to Top Government Officials

- [April 28](#), [August 19](#), and [November 18](#) - Letters sent to President Obama requesting the President to fulfill Governor Perry’s full request for 1,000 national guard troops on the Southern Border, and asking for an accounting for why the President only approved 250 troops.
- [October 21](#) - Letter sent to Gene Dodaro, Acting Comptroller General of the Government Accountability Office asking him to join pending requests pertaining to contingency plans and oversight of deepwater drilling and cleanup of the BP Gulf Oil Spill.
- [December 16](#) - Letter sent to Secretary Janet Napolitano regarding concerns about enforcement of air travel restrictions on passengers with communicable diseases that pose a significant threat to public health.
- [December 17](#) - Letter to Speaker Designate Boehner asking that as one of his first acts as Speaker he immediately move to the Floor legislation to repeal and replace the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and replace it with real health reform proposals

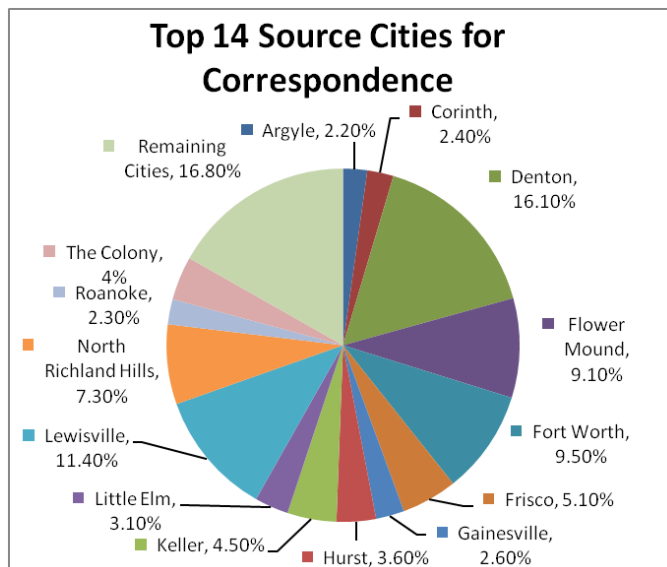
Congressional Caucuses

- Congressional Caucus Chair or Co-Chair of:
 - [Congressional Health Care Caucus](#)
 - [Congressional Motorcycle Caucus](#)
 - [Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus](#)
 - [Congressional Osteoporosis Caucus](#)

Correspondence with North Texans

Since the beginning of 2010, over 50,000 North Texans have contacted me through email, letters, phone calls, and faxes, to express their concerns and communicate their opinions to me over various issues. Health care reform was by far the most common topic of communication with over 7,800 individual pieces of mail received. This issue was followed by immigration and border security with over 4,000 pieces of mail and letters about the new financial reform law with just over 1,800 pieces of mail.

Additionally, in May of 2010, I wrote to 11,163 North Texas high school graduates to congratulate them upon completing their high school career and obtaining their high school diploma from one of the prestigious high schools 26th District of Texas.



Snapshot of Constituent Services

- Number of cases my office opened with various federal agencies:
 - Social Security Administration cases - 95
 - Veterans Affairs cases - 111
 - Citizenship and Immigration Services cases - 79
 - Housing cases - 87
 - Various other agencies - 173
- Tours requested on behalf of constituents:
 - White House - 1,278 people
 - U.S. Capitol - 2,055 people

To view all constituent services, visit the "Services For You" section of my website.

Constituent Services

I want to serve my constituents in any way I can. Whether you need help with a federal agency, would like a tour of the United State Capitol or White House, or are considering applying to a service academy.

Throughout 2010, more than 500 North Texans from the 26th Congressional District received assistance in the form of a congressional inquiry to address an issue or concern, which had developed with one of our federal agencies. Some of the more frequent topics I assisted constituents with included veterans' and Social Security benefits, immigration matters and housing assistance issues. Out of the 545 cases my office initiated, more than 450 have been resolved.

In addition to congressional inquiries, which requires extensive efforts from my office, approximately 1,052 North Texans contacted me via email, telephone or correspondence with general issues or concerns regarding various topics. These too were resolved. Denton County had the largest amount of constituent inquires followed by Tarrant County and Cooke County.

My office also assisted constituents with requesting tours of various federal buildings. During 2010, over 2,100 people received a tour from a request that was made through my office. My office also assisted in having 67 flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

Events and Meetings

This past year I held or attended 931 events, including 14 Chamber of Commerce meetings, 220 health care related meetings and events, and 197 meetings that covered everything from energy and education to transportation and veterans. I met with North Texans from Denton to Gainesville and from Fort Worth to The Colony and everywhere in between. Over the course of the year I held seven town hall meetings across North Texas: Trophy Club, Fort Worth, The Colony, Keller, Gainesville, Denton, and Flower Mound. I also held five telephone town halls.

- During 2010, I held four summits that brought leaders from the local, state and federal levels together to address the issues facing North Texans.
 - [Emergency Preparedness Summit](#) - Held on April 10th in North Richland Hills. Keynote speaker was Larry Mowry, Chief Meteorologist for CBS 11.
 - [Energy Efficiency Summit](#) - Held on July 1st in Corinth. Speakers include: Dan Fette, Dan Fette Builders/Home Builders Association of Greater Dallas, Steven Gleaves, Allied Construction Professionals/Texas Home Energy Rating Organization, Mike King, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Drew Campbell, Capitol Insights, Brian Tulloh, TXU Energy, Jenny Danieau, North Central Texas Council of Governments, Srinivasan Srivilliputhur, University of North Texas-Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering and Mayor Pro Tem Joe Harrison, City of Corinth.
 - [North Texas Economic Recovery Outlook: Impact of Government Policy on Small Business](#) - Held on October 29th in Lewisville. Speakers included: U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady, (TX-8), Senior House Republican on the Joint Economic Committee, Richard Fisher, President & CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Cynthia Blankenship, Bank of the West, Carol Longacre, Longacre Construction/Homebuilders Association of Greater Dallas, and Robert Gavitt, Owner, Domino's Pizza Franchisee.
 - [Eighth Annual 26th Congressional District Transportation Summit](#) - Held on November 29th in Hurst. Federal keynote speaker was U.S. Congressman John Mica (FL-7) Ranking Member, U.S House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. State keynote speaker was Senator Tommy Williams (TX-District 4) Chairman, Senate Transportation & Homeland Security Committee.

Snapshot of

Media Communication

- 958 articles and blogs mentioning Congressman Burgess
 - 311 on health care
 - 43 on economy, jobs and spending
 - 212 on energy
 - 21 on education
- 13 columns/op-eds/blogs
- 104 radio interviews
 - 20 Nationally Syndicated shows
- 61 TV interviews
 - 15 on Fox Business
 - 9 on Fox News
 - 4 on MSNBC
 - 5 on Reuters TV

Media Communication

As your Member of Congress, I take seriously my duty to advocate for Texas' 26th Congressional District on the federal level. Being a member of the minority party this Congress has been difficult at times to make sure your voice and my voice is heard, but through media coverage at the local and national level, including print, TV, radio, and new technologies, I have been a strong voice for small-government, pro-business, pro-American governance in the United States.

Columns and Letters to the Editor Authored

- [Guest Blogger: Rep. Michael Burgess, M.D. \(R-TX\) on Obamacare's Impact on Doctors](#) - Heritage Foundation, March 30
- [Rep. Michael C. Burgess, M.D.: Snap judgment at oil spill hearing could lead to disaster of its own](#) - The Daily Caller, May 12
- [Michael Burgess: Hold TCEQ accountable](#) - Denton Record-Chronicle, June 20
- [Rep. Michael Burgess: Why Policy Matters for the House GOP](#) - Roll Call, July 13
- [Rep. Michael C. Burgess, M.D. \(R-TX\): No reason to celebrate](#) - Health Reform Report, September 23

Articles Mentioning Congressman Burgess

- [Rep. Michael Burgess tours Haiti's earthquake aftermath as part of congressional delegation](#) - Dallas Morning News, February 22
- [Burgess vows to help fight parts of health bill](#) - Cross Timbers Gazette, March 22
- [Burgess and Barton observe gulf oil spill](#) - Dallas Morning News, May 7
- [Rep. Michael Burgess wants closer look at environmental agency's actions on air tests at drilling sites](#) - Fort Worth Star-Telegram, June 11
- [Rep. Burgess Gives Physicians' Take on New Health Care Law](#) - Health Affairs, July 1
- [Barton, Burgess probe finds Chinese obstruction in investigation of tainted drug](#) - Dallas Morning News, July 22
- [Congressman Burgess addresses concerns at town hall meeting](#) - Gainesville Daily Register, August 5
- [Burgess to host three events on health care](#) - Denton Record Chronicle, August 17
- [Burgess discusses issues](#) - Lewisville Leader, August 20
- [Hutchison, Burgess Fight for Education Money](#) - KTBC FOX 7, September 14
- [GOP Doctor Calls For Sebelius To Testify On Obamacare Discrepancies and "Reeducation" Plans](#) - Big Government, September 23
- [GOP gearing up for White House investigations](#) - Los Angeles Times, October 20
- [Burgess seeks photos of signs touting stimulus projects](#) - Fort Worth Star-Telegram, October 23
- [Checking In With Republican Rep. Michael Burgess Of Texas, A Physician Who Says The New Health Care Law Has Got To Go](#) - Kaiser Health News, December 14
- [Loopholes in 'Do Not Board' list let infected travelers fly](#) - USA Today, December 17

*For the latest news, visit the
"News Center" section of my website.*



Videos of Interviews, Committee Hearings, Floor Speeches and Other Events

- [Burgess Previews the White House Health Care Summit](#) on WFAA-Channel 8 Daybreak, February 25
- [Burgess Questions EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson](#), April 28
- [Burgess Discusses BP Oil Spill Hearing](#) with MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell, June 21
- [Burgess Outlines Republican Plan to Save Social Security](#) on Fox and Friends, August 17
- [Burgess Discusses Immigration, Health Care Reform](#) on KTVT CBS 11, August 17
- [Burgess Pushes For Lower Taxes](#) on Fox Business' Cavuto, September 14
- [Burgess Discusses the Census and What The Numbers Mean](#) on Fox News, October 7
- [Burgess emphasizes the need for troops to remain on the border of South Texas](#) on Fox and Friends, November 24
- [Burgess Discusses Spending](#) on Fox Business' Bulls and Bears with David Asman, December 28

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HEALTH CARE CAUCUS

<http://www.healthcaucus.org>

<http://www.twitter.com/HealthCaucus>



“Burgess overall has the dedication, energy and breadth of ideas...His contribution is invaluable in Washington...Burgess exhibits the kind of leadership that...is missing too often in Washington today.”

- [Dallas Morning News, February 17, 2010](#)

“Since being elected in 2002, [Burgess] has energetically involved himself in Congress. He has been a leading Republican spokesman on healthcare in the debate over Obama’s proposals.”

- [Ft. Worth Star Telegram, February 8, 2010](#)

“Burgess is a thoughtful and moderate tempered legislator and, as a physician, is well versed in health care and small-business issues.”

“On budget matters, Burgess...is equally conservative and focused, backing reform of the tax code and entitlement programs and reducing government spending...”

“Republican Michael Burgess has tried to reach across partisan divides and even has challenged his own party in ways to make him a uniquely mature voice of reason in Washington.”

“As evidence that he is more than words, Burgess opposed Bush Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson’s bank bailout program in 2008...”

- [Dallas Morning News, October 5, 2010](#)