

MARCIA L. FUDGE

ELEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF OHIO

Winter/Spring 2012 | Congressional Update from your Congresswoman | www.fudge.house.gov

CONGRESSWOMAN FUDGE FIGHTS TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND BRING JOBS TO OHIO

The Cleveland region ranked 9th in the nation (for metro areas with over 2 million people) in the number of deficient bridges. About 213 bridges, or more than 11 percent, are rated as deficient. Nearly 2.4 million drivers commute on these bridges daily; that's 28 drivers per second.

That is why I sponsored the National Infrastructure Bank Act. This legislation allows us to target the large number of deficient bridges in our communities and other infrastructure for repair, making travel safer. It will also provide a path for Ohioans to get back to work. According to the Federal Highway Administration, for every \$1 billion spent on highway and bridge construction, nearly 30,000 jobs are created.

JOB FAIR: NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT JOBS, DOING SOMETHING



Thousands attended the Job Fair I hosted at Cleveland State University. With so many qualified residents out of work, my goal was to provide a means to connect applicants with employers who are looking to hire. Over 120 employers, from both the public and private sector, were in attendance. Hundreds of residents secured jobs from the event. This is a good start, but only the beginning to getting our friends and neighbors back on their feet and back to work.



Congresswoman Fudge greets employers and thanks them for their participation in the Job Fair.

JOB BILLS:

► **National Infrastructure Bank Act** establishes an independent body that issues loans and loan guarantees to public and private entities for eligible projects related to transportation, drinking water, and public housing infrastructure.

► **The Hire, Train, Retain Act** would offer payroll tax exemptions to employers who train and hire unemployed Americans, getting people into training programs and on a path to employment.

► **The National Youth Summer Jobs Act** would provide funding to cities hardest hit by the economic crisis to develop and sustain summer job programs for youth ages 13-21. The bill was recently endorsed by the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

► **School Athletic Facilities Restoration Act** authorizes the Secretary of Education to make grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational entities for the construction, renovation, or repair of school facilities that are primarily used for physical education or athletic contests.

INSIDE ARTICLES

SEE WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 2

- Helping Our Returning Heroes Find Jobs
- Committed to Preserving Medicare and Social Security

PAGE 3

- Could You Live Off \$4.50?
- U.S. Passport & Immigration Resource Fair, Re-entry Fair
- USPS Visits My Office

PAGE 4

- Healthier Kids For a Brighter Future
- How My Office Can Help

CONGRESSWOMAN FUDGE CELEBRATES OPENING OF CLEVELAND'S MINORITY BUSINESS CENTER



Congresswoman Fudge commemorates the opening of the Minority Business Development Agency's Business Center in Cleveland with (from left) Senator Sherrod Brown, David Hinson (National Director of MBDA), Carmen West (Executive Director of MBDA Business Center Cleveland), Andrew Jackson (Senior Vice President and Executive Director of Greater Cleveland Partnership: Commission on Economic Inclusion).

"Congresswoman Fudge's staff received me late in the day, half an hour after my call for help. I appreciated her help and empathy which I needed after trying by myself and unsuccessfully to solve the problem for 5 months. She succeeded in fixing the mess created by Social Security! I received my normal survivor benefits and the difference due, over \$2000."

- Leah, Shaker Heights

HELPING OUR RETURNING HEROES FIND JOBS

The unemployment rate for veterans in the Eleventh District is over 19%, so I was pleased to vote for two tax cuts that would incentivize hiring for our veterans, including returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The Wounded Warrior Tax Credit, originally part of the American Jobs Act, doubles the existing tax credit for long-term unemployed veterans with service-connected disabilities, as well as creates a new credit of up to \$9,600 for firms that hire veterans with service-connected disabilities who have been unemployed longer than 6 months. The Returning Heroes Tax Credit offers businesses two new credits; the first up to \$2,400 to hire veterans who have been unemployed at least 4 weeks and the second up to \$5,600 to businesses who hire veterans who have been unemployed longer than 6 months.



Congresswoman Fudge meets with American Legion veterans and Auxiliary members at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center.

Resources for our heroes returning home:

- ▶ **My Next Move for Veterans** - a new online resource that allows veterans to enter their military occupation code and discover civilian occupations for which they are well qualified.
- ▶ **Veterans Job Bank** - a tool to help veterans find job postings from companies looking to hire them. It already has over a million job postings.
- ▶ **Magnet Veterans Program (MAGNET)** - working with Veteran's Services for the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services, this non-profit agency matches returning veterans with specific training for key manufacturing jobs available in Northeast Ohio such as machinists, inspection/quality technicians and equipment maintenance personnel. I helped secure a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor for the Manufacturing Advocacy & Growth Network (MAGNET).

Visit my website, www.Fudge.house.gov, for more information.

COMMITTED TO PRESERVING MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

There has been a concerted effort by my Republican colleagues to end Medicare as we know it, as well as drastically cut Social Security benefits. I am committed to ensuring that these vital programs remain intact, and that our seniors are not disadvantaged by budget cuts.

Medicare is needed now more than ever. In 1965, only 51% of seniors had health care coverage. Thanks to Medicare, virtually all seniors have health care coverage today. Moreover, the coverage corresponds to a sharp decrease in the number of seniors living below the poverty line. In 1965, nearly 30% of seniors lived below the poverty line. Today, that number is less than 8%.

Survey Results: I asked my constituents what they thought about changes to Medicare.

When asked whether Medicare should be changed to a voucher program, constituents who responded overwhelmingly said no. Eighty-one percent were not in favor of the change, while 12% responded in favor.

Social Security Forums: For more than half of elderly beneficiaries, Social Security provides the majority of their income. For one-quarter, it provides nearly all (more than 90%) of their income. That's why I've hosted numerous Social Security forums in the last year to inform constituents and communicate important information on benefits to the people who need it most.

EVERY AMERICAN DESERVES THE RIGHT TO VOTE



Congresswoman Fudge has fought to preserve the right for every eligible citizen to vote. She hosted a press conference on Ohio House Bill 194, which drastically limits early voting and vote by mail (pictured above at the press conference).

JOIN CONGRESSWOMAN FUDGE AT AN UPCOMING EVENT

To inquire about specific dates and times, visit www.Fudge.house.gov or call (216) 522-4900.

Forum on Grants Resources - this event will feature presentations on grant resources from federal and state governments as well as private foundations. It is designed to provide information to non-profit agencies, as well as civic, cultural and academic organizations.

Re-entry Job Fair - The fair will build upon the initial event in 2011, offering employment opportunities and resources for restored citizens. Resources for continuing education, workforce development and job readiness will be available.

Small Business Forum: On Exports - This forum will include resources for small business owners regarding exporting and expanding markets outside the U.S.

U.S. Passport and Immigration Event - Representatives from the federal government and local agencies will be available to offer assistance with immigration, visa and residency matters.

Employment Summit - This event will be similar to the Job Fair held in 2011. The event will host employers and connect job applicants with resources to enhance their marketability, interview skills and job readiness.

Annual Congressional Art Competition with Congresswoman Fudge - This annual competition is open to all high school students in the district. Artwork made by the grand prize winner will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Winners will be announced on May 5th.

Veterans Benefits Resource Fair - Similar to the event held in 2011, veterans will convene in one location to consult directly with Veterans Affairs specialists about VA programs, requesting records, educational and training opportunities, as well as local and state assistance.

Social Security forums with Congresswoman Fudge - The Congresswoman will be joined by representatives from the Social Security Administration, who will present information on benefit claims, appeals and obtaining assistance on individual cases.

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL SIGN UP

I hope you'll join me for an upcoming Telephone Town Hall. In the past, thousands of constituents from across the district have joined me to discuss important issues and ask questions live. Visit my website, www.Fudge.house.gov, or call my office at (202) 225-7032 to sign up to be part of the next call.



Congresswoman Fudge discusses grocery options with Ms. Lena Boswell, a constituent who relies on food stamps to feed herself and her two children, while participating in the Food Stamp Challenge which required her to live off \$4.50 per day.

FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE: COULD YOU LIVE OFF \$4.50?

Could you eat three meals for under \$4.50? Anyone who relies on SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or food stamps, does this every day. Congresswoman Fudge participated in the Food Stamp Challenge, which required her to live off the average food stamp benefit, \$31.50 for one week. That comes out to \$1.50 per meal, and \$4.50 per day. With so little to spend, the Congresswoman found herself eating smaller quantities and less healthful foods.

At a time when many families in our community are struggling, the least Congress can do is protect the programs that provide assistance to our most vulnerable citizens in their time of need. Many constituents in the 11th district sent encouraging messages. One constituent, Ms. Lena Boswell, who supports herself and her two children on SNAP, accompanied the Congresswoman at the grocery

store to help her purchase inexpensive food items that could be used for multiple meals. The Congresswoman learned that SNAP allowed Ms. Boswell's family to eat during economic hardship.

Last year, a staggering 45.2 million Americans filed for food stamps. Nearly half of all food stamp recipients are children and 8% are people over the age of 60. Despite the critical importance of this lifeline, SNAP and other feeding programs are in danger of receiving drastic cuts during the current budgeting process. Congresswoman Fudge hopes to raise awareness about the need to protect these programs, helping legislators understand more about the lives of the 45 million Americans who rely on SNAP. Potential cuts would not only hurt people struggling to get by, they would also hurt the economy. Studies show every dollar spent on food stamps yields \$1.73 in economic activity.

THANK YOU FROM USPS WORKERS

Postal workers visited my office to thank me for speaking out in favor of House Resolution 1351, legislation that would remove the need to lay off 100,000 workers and close 3,653 post offices nationwide, including 10 facilities in my district. I also sponsored the Fair and Equitable Postal Service Access

Act, which would prevent the Postal Service from closing or consolidating retail post offices if it would result in a disproportionate, unreasonable, or undue burden on the elderly, economically disadvantaged, or individuals lacking access to transportation or the internet.

BREAKING GROUND ON CAMPUS VILLAGE AT CSU



Congresswoman Fudge was on site during the Cleveland State University ground breaking ceremony for a 308-unit apartment complex, the largest residential development in Cleveland in more than 30 years.

CONTACT CONGRESSMAN FUDGE

Washington D.C. Office
1019 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-7032
Fax: (202) 225-1339
www.Fudge.house.gov

Warrensville Heights Office
4834 Richmond Road, Suite 150
Warrensville Heights, OH 44128
Phone: (216) 522-4900
Fax: (216) 522-4908
www.Fudge.house.gov

Marcia L. Fudge

M.C.
Presorted Standard
ECRWSS



WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
1513 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-7032
FAX: (202) 225-1339

DISTRICT OFFICE
4834 RICHMOND ROAD, SUITE 150
WARRENSVILLE HEIGHTS, OH 44128
PHONE: (216) 522-4900
FAX: (216) 522-4908

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER - LOCAL
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OHIO

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.



HOW MY OFFICE CAN HELP YOU

FEDERAL AGENCIES

My staff will assist and advise you on government services such as:

- Social Security
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Veteran's Benefits
- Immigration
- Passports
- Housing and Foreclosure Resources

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Internships are available year-round in my Warrensville Heights and Washington, DC offices.

WASHINGTON, DC TOURS

My office is here to assist you in securing tours of the U.S. Capitol Building, the White House, and other sites. Please give us ample notice for all tour requests.

Visit my website, www.Fudge.house.gov, or call my office, (216) 522-4900 to inquire about any of the information above.

HEALTHIER KIDS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

One in three children is obese or overweight and, for the first time in history, this generation is on track to have a shorter life span than their parents. Unfortunately, for some children, where they grow up determines how well and how long they live. That's why I sponsored Fit for Life, a comprehensive bill that addresses many of the root causes of childhood obesity. It attempts to increase access to healthy foods by alleviating food deserts, especially in underserved communities, decrease the overall rate of food insecurity and promote exercise. We talk extensively about the health of the country we will leave our children, but what about the health of the children we will leave our country? We encourage our kids to prosper but too many of them will not be healthy enough to fight in the military, or will be overburdened with diseases like type II diabetes and high blood pressure when they grow up. It's time to change that starting now.

PROCLAMATIONS

My office is able to provide proclamations to recognize constituents' public distinctions:

- Eagle Scout Attainment
- Girl Scout Gold, Silver, or Platinum Awards
- High School Graduation
- Citizenship
- Military Academy Acceptance

Unfortunately, we are unable to issue proclamations for personal accomplishments.

SPECIAL GREETINGS

I am pleased to request birthday greetings from the White House for individuals at least 80 years of age or greetings for wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more.

FLAG REQUESTS

Order and purchase a U.S. flag through my office. Your flag may be flown over the Capitol to commemorate a special person, event, or organization. A certificate of recognition will accompany each flag.

MEETING WITH LOCAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS



Education is the great equalizer in our society, and every child should have the right to a quality education. Congresswoman Fudge invited Michael Yudin, Acting Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, to meet with local school superintendents in Cleveland to hear first-hand their concerns and suggestions on how federal, state, and local entities can work together to improve conditions for our kids.