



26th Congressional District
2014 Year-End Annual Report
Congressman Michael C. Burgess



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2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Participated in 76 Hearings and Markups in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Participated in 57 Hearings in the Rules Committee
- Cast 556 votes, a 98.8% vote attendance record
- Authored and introduced 15 pieces of legislation
- Authored the MD CARE Act, which was signed into public law
- Cosponsored 241 pieces of legislation
- Opened 434 cases with federal agencies on behalf of constituents
- Received and responded to more than 34,000 pieces of correspondence
- Held or attended more than 400 events
- Assisted in having 48 American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol
- 22 constituents were accepted to U.S. service academies
- Mentioned in 968 newspaper articles and blog posts
- Conducted 88 radio interviews and 106 television interviews
- Issued 69 press releases and 44 weekly video addresses
- Was named Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade for the 114th Congress

It is an honor to represent you in the United States House of Representatives. For the past year, I've done my best to represent you in and advocate on behalf of your interests in Washington. While we have made lot of progress in the last year to get our economy back on track and reign in the spending and over reach of the government, there is still a lot of work left to be done. In the coming year, I will continue my commitment to working on behalf of a pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda. We need to make government more efficient, and reduce the bureaucratic burdens and over regulation that are stifling our economy. With dedication and commitment, we can build this great country back, and we can create a better future for our children and grandchildren.

ABOUT ME



After spending nearly three decades practicing medicine in North Texas as an OB-GYN, I have served the constituents of the 26th District in the United States House of Representatives since 2003.

I currently serve on the prestigious House Energy and Commerce Committee where I served as vice chairman of both the Subcommittees on Health and Oversight and Investigations for the 113th Congress and was a member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Power. In November 2014, I was named Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade for the 114th Congress. In addition, I am a member of the Rules Committee and the Helsinki Commission. In 2009, I founded the Congressional Health Caucus, on which I serve as co-chairman.

Because of my medical background, I have 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. I have voted to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act 54 times. I have played an important role in bipartisan efforts to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and consumer products, and have introduced legislation to strengthen our ability to stop dangerous goods and products from coming into this country.

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

As a fiscal conservative, I believe Americans deserve a federal government that is more efficient, more effective, less costly, and always transparent. I am a proponent of a flat tax and have introduced a flat tax bill, HR 1040, every term I have served in Congress. I follow a strict adherence to the Constitution and oppose unnecessary expansion of the federal government's control over the personal freedoms of Americans. Instead, I believe in giving people more control over their lives and their money. I am committed to reducing illegal immigration into our country and have taken action to ensure our borders are secure and our immigration laws are enforced. I strongly oppose any proposal to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants.

During my time on Capitol Hill, I have earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face and have received several awards including: 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, I represent the majority of Denton County, and parts of Dallas County and Tarrant County. I was raised in Denton, and attended The Selwyn School, graduating in 1968 as valedictorian. In addition, I graduated with both an undergraduate and a master's degree from North Texas State University, now the University of North Texas.

I received my M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, and completed my residency programs at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. I also received a master's degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, and in May 2009 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center.

My wife, Laura, and I have been married for 41 years. We have three children and two grandsons.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

I am a member of the [House Energy and Commerce Committee](#), the oldest standing legislative committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, and considered to be one of the most powerful committees. This committee has wide-ranging jurisdiction, presiding over all matters relating to telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, the supply and delivery of energy and interstate and foreign commerce in general.

This jurisdiction extends over five cabinet-level departments (U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency) and many independent agencies (Federal Trade Commission, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission, Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). During the 114th Congress, 2015 and 2016, I will serve in the following positions:

- **Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade.** Jurisdiction includes: Interstate and foreign commerce, including all trade matters within the jurisdiction of the full committee; regulation of commercial practices (the Federal Trade Commission), including sports-related matters; consumer affairs and consumer protection, including privacy matters generally; data security; consumer product safety (the Consumer Product Safety Commission); product liability; motor vehicle safety; and regulation of travel, tourism, and time.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.** Jurisdiction includes: responsibility for oversight of agencies, departments, and programs within the jurisdiction of the full committee, and for conducting investigations within such jurisdiction.
- **Member, Subcommittee on Health.** Jurisdiction includes: Public health and quarantine; hospital construction; mental health; biomedical research and development; health information technology, privacy, and cybersecurity; public health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid) and private health insurance; medical malpractice and medical malpractice insurance; the regulation of food, drugs, and cosmetics; drug abuse; the Department of Health and Human Services; the National Institutes of Health; the Centers for Disease Control; Indian Health Service; and all aspects of the above-referenced jurisdiction related to the Department of Homeland Security.

RULES COMMITTEE

I was asked to serve on the powerful House Rules Committee for the 113th Congress and will do so again for this Congress. Chaired by fellow Texan Pete Sessions, the Rules Committee establishes the parameters of debate for every bill considered by the House of Representatives on the House floor. The committee consists of nine Republicans and four Democrats and meets weekly to discuss the floor schedule and vote on bills for debate. As a member of this committee, I am in a unique position to influence policy on every aspect of the House agenda, including issues pertaining to health care, energy, spending, national security, and intelligence.

- During the second session of the 113th Congress, the Rules Committee has met nearly 60 times to move critical pieces of legislation to the House Floor for consideration
- I supported numerous key amendments to major pieces of legislation so that they could be considered by the full House, including having an amendment made in order to the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act which would require the Department of Defense to report to Congress how far along it is on being able to pass an audit. Despite a law in 1990 requiring the action, the DOD has yet to achieve an audit and be accountable for its spending. This legislation would correct that lapse.
- I managed 11 Rules on the House floor, providing for the consideration of key pieces of legislation pertaining to health care and energy policy.

CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP

A Congressional caucus, also known as a Congressional Member Organization, is a group of members of the United States Congress that meets to pursue common legislative objectives. A caucus can be bi-partisan and contain members of both houses. Because a caucus is comprised of members with similar ideas and goals, they can be quite important and powerful.

Caucus Chairman/Co-Chair

- Congressional Health Care Caucus
- Congressional Motorcycle Safety Caucus
- Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus
- Congressional Flat Tax Caucus
- Congressional Osteoporosis Caucus

Caucus Membership:

- Bipartisan Congressional Privacy Caucus
- Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease
- Bipartisan Cystic Fibrosis Caucus
- Bipartisan Disaster Relief Caucus
- Coalition for Autism Research and Education
- Congressional Affordable Medicines Caucus
- Congressional Afghan Caucus
- Congressional Allergy and Asthma Caucus
- Congressional Anti-Terrorism Caucus
- Congressional Army Caucus
- Congressional Automotive Performance & Motorsport Caucus
- Congressional Aviation Caucus
- Congressional Balanced Budget Amendment Caucus
- Congressional Bike Caucus
- Congressional Boating Caucus
- Congressional Caucus on Community Health Centers
- Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans
- Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease
- Congressional Caucus on Sovereignty
- Congressional Diabetes Caucus
- Congressional Downs Syndrome Caucus
- Congressional Dyslexia Caucus
- Congressional Efficiency Caucus
- Congressional Horse Caucus
- Congressional High Technology Caucus
- Congressional Mental Health Caucus
- Congressional Navy and Marine Corps Caucus
- Congressional Pakistan Caucus
- Congressional Research and Development Caucus
- Congressional Taiwan Caucus
- Congressional United Services Organization Caucus
- Congressional Western Caucus
- GOP Doctors Caucus
- House Air Force Caucus
- House Agriculture Energy Users Caucus
- House Biofuels Caucus
- House General Aviation Caucus
- House Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus
- House Tea Party Caucus
- Military Veterans Caucus
- National Guard and Reserve Components Caucus
- Next Gen 9-1-1 Caucus
- Immigration Reform Caucus
- Zero Capital Gains Tax Caucus



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 [Texas office](#) 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. 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 of 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. Additionally, each quarter the U.S. House of Representatives produces a [Statement of Disbursements](#) which provides specific information concerning the expenses and disbursements for each office. I believe it is important to be accountable and provide transparency in the dealings of our elected officials and government offices.

FOCUS ON CONSTITUENT SERVICES

One of the most important things I do as your U.S. Representative is help you gain access to and information about the federal government. Although I cannot override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can often intervene on a constituent's behalf to answer questions, find solutions or just cut through the red tape.

- **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 government.

Throughout 2014, 434 constituents from the district received assistance in the form of a congressional inquiry to address an issue or concern with a federal agency. Out of the 434 cases opened in 2014, I was able to resolve 320 before the end of the year. Some of the more frequent topics I assisted with included benefits from the Social Security Administration, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Veterans Affairs, Internal Revenue Service and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. In addition, my office assisted 682 constituents with various non-legislative issues. I sent 1,661 correspondences via mail providing casework updates and informational referrals. More than 50% of the constituents who contacted my office with concerns relating to a federal agency resided in Lewisville, Denton, Frisco, Flower Mound and Fort Worth.

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 inalienable 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.

ABOUT THE 26TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas is located in the heart of North Texas. The 26th District includes most of [Denton County](#) as well as large portions of [Tarrant County](#), and a sliver of [Dallas County](#).

- In Dallas County, I represent the city of [Irving](#).
- In Denton County, I represent the cities of [Argyle](#), [Aubrey](#), [Bartonville](#), [Copper Canyon](#), [Corinth](#), [Corral City](#), [Cross Roads](#), [Denton](#), [DISH](#), [Double Oak](#), Drop, [Flower Mound](#), [Frisco](#), Hackberry, [Haslet](#), [Hickory Creek](#), [Highland Village](#), [Justin](#), [Krugerville](#), [Krum](#), [Lake Dallas](#), [Lakewood Village](#), [Lewisville](#), Lincoln Park, [Little Elm](#), [Northlake](#), [Oak Point](#), [Pilot Point](#), [Ponder](#), Providence Village, [Roanoke](#), [Sanger](#), [Shady Shores](#), [The Colony](#), and [Trophy Club](#).
- In Tarrant County, I represent the cities of [Haltom City](#), [Haslet](#), [Keller](#), [North Richland Hills](#), [Watauga](#), [Westlake](#), and [Fort Worth](#).

The 26th United States Congressional District of Texas continues to flourish. Rapid growth and business expansions from Dallas and the Tarrant County area make the District a thriving economic center. [The University of North Texas](#), [Texas Woman's University](#), and [North Central Texas College](#) anchor a large student base within the District.

The 26th District is also home to the [Barnett Shale](#), the largest field of natural gas reserves in the country, which supports local economic development, jobs, and provides clean energy to the region and the country. Agriculture plays an important role in the 26th District. Ranchers raise horses, beef cattle, sheep and goats, while farmers grow corn, wheat, hay, and other crops. The impact of farming and ranching results in thousands of jobs and a contribution of hundreds of millions of dollars to the regional and statewide economies.

The 26th District is home to the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region VI Headquarters](#) in Denton, Texas, which provides assistance to a five-state region: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and New Mexico. Its mission is to reduce the loss of life and property, and to protect institutions through an emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. It is also home to the Denton Mobile Emergency Response Support Detachment.

Housing the I-35 East and West corridors, the 26th Congressional District is a vital artery for Texas and international transportation. The District houses both the Lakeview Airport, [Denton Municipal Airport](#), [Northwest Regional Airport](#), and [Alliance Airport](#). The 26th also sports the [Texas Motor Speedway](#), which hosts two Nextel-NASCAR events in the spring and fall.

