

TEXAS



**2009 Year-End Report:  
Working For North Texas**



## Highlights From 2009

- Appeared in 702 newspaper articles or blogs
- Conducted over 100 radio interviews and 66 TV interviews
- Participated in over 50 hearings in the Energy and Commerce Committee
- Cast 944 votes on the floor of the House of Representatives
- Introduced 22 bills
- Co-Sponsored 181 bills
- Introduced 76 Amendments
- Responded to over 65,000 letters or inquiries from North Texans
- Attended 390 events in the District

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## A Message from Congressman Burgess

The past year has been one of change, for better or worse, and many ups and downs. I began my fourth term as a United States Congressman, our nation swore-in a new president, and North Texas became one of the fastest growing areas in the country.

Unemployment reached its highest level, 10.2 percent, since the early 1980s, home foreclosures went up, available credit went down, and the national debt reached its highest level ever, at over \$12 trillion.

Through it all, I have done my best to represent you and advocate on behalf of your best interests. I worked to bring solutions to transportation issues to Denton and Cooke County, a new health clinic to Fort Worth, and brought together local, state and federal officials to help find ways to save on energy costs.

It has been an honor to represent you in the United States House of Representatives during the rollercoaster ride that was 2009. You have afforded me the privilege to serve you, 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.



## **About Congressman Burgess**

After spending twenty-five years practicing medicine in North Texas, Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D., was sworn in to Congress in 2002, and again in 2004, 2006, and most recently in 2008. During his time on Capitol Hill he has earned a reputation as a problem-solver who seeks sensible solutions to the challenges Americans face.

Dr. Burgess serves on the prestigious House Energy and Commerce Committee and three of its subcommittees: Health Care, Energy & Environment, and Oversight & Investigations. He is also a member of the bicameral Joint Economic Committee, and Dr. Burgess recently founded and is Chairman of the Congressional Health Care Caucus. During his six years in Congress, 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 played an important role in bipartisan efforts to ensure the safety of food, drugs, and consumer products.

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.

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; Guardian of Small Business by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB); and the Spirit of Enterprise award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, among others for his work in Congress.

Today Dr. Burgess represents parts of suburban Dallas and Fort Worth. 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 for his work in Congress. 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. With 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 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, and 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.

## 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 Can 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.

## Legislative Work and Accomplishments

When the Constitution of the United States created the separation of powers, the Legislative Branch was granted the duty of creating the laws – writing, debating and passing – that govern our great nation. Congress is also responsible for oversight of the other two branches of government – executive and judicial – and making sure everyone is working in the best interests of you, the American people. In 2009, I have introduced numerous bills dealing with health care, taxes, energy, the economy and veterans. I have amended bills which I think needed improvement, and I have supported bills introduced by other Members when support is deserved. I have written letters calling for investigations and demanding explanations. And I have cast over 900 votes, always keeping in mind that my job is to do the work for the people of North Texas.



Congressman Burgess stands next to the stack of amendments he prepared to introduce to the health care reform bill.

### Snapshot of Legislative Work and Accomplishments

- Participated in over 50 Hearings in the Energy & Commerce Committee
  - Participated in over two dozen Hearings in the Joint Economic Committee
  - Participated in over 20 legislative Markups in the Energy & Commerce Committee
  - Cast 944 votes
  - Introduced 22 bills
  - Co-Introduced 17 Bi-Partisan bills
  - Co-Sponsored 181 bills
  - Introduced or attempted to introduce 76 Amendments to legislation, including health care reform, cap and trade and financial regulatory reform.
  - On March 31, the House of Representatives passed HR 1253, which was introduced by Congressman Burgess - [Burgess Bill Requiring More Transparency In Health Insurance Plans Passes House](#)
  - On May 21, the House of Representatives passed an amendment introduced by Congressman Burgess to HR 915, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act - [House Accepts Burgess Amendment Protecting FAA Whistleblowers](#)
  - On December 10, the House of Representatives accepted by voice vote 5 Amendments introduced by Congressman Burgess to HR 4173, Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009.
- For more information on my voting record, bills I have introduced and sponsored, and committee work, visit the [“About Me”](#) section of my website.***
- Congressional Caucus Chair / Co-Chair of:
    - Congressional Health Care Caucus
    - Congressional Motorcycle Caucus
    - Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus
    - Congressional Osteoporosis Caucus
  - I sent dozens of letters to Administration Officials and House Leadership on many issues, including secret health care meetings, the government’s slow response to the H1N1 epidemic, and the shootings at Fort Hood.
  - [Letter to Department of Homeland Security regarding their report entitled, “Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment”, 4/27](#)
  - [Letter to President Obama accepting his offer to meet with him at the White House to discuss the health care reform proposals “line by line”, 8/3](#)
  - [Letter to President Obama requesting detailed information on the negotiations hosted by the White House and six major interest groups in the health care reform debate, 9/30](#)
  - [Letter to House Energy & Commerce requesting a hearing into H1N1 and the availability and efficacy of vaccines to](#)

[prevent further outbreak](#), 10/27 (Note; one week later, the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee held a hearing on this issue.)

- [Letter to House Energy & Commerce requesting an investigation into the information discovered by the leaked emails from climate change scientists at the University of East Anglia](#), 12/1

***For more information about my work in Congress and my stances on the issues important to you, please visit the [“Legislative Issues”](#) section of my website.***

## Media Coverage

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, it 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. Furthermore, because North Texas is such a booming area, full of thriving communities, I am proud to educate the rest of the country on the common-sense ideals that have made our communities such a great place to live and work.

### Snapshot of Media Coverage

- 702 Articles and Blogs Mentioning Congressman Burgess
  - 324 on health care
  - 87 on economy, jobs and spending
  - 35 on energy
- 17 Columns/Op-Eds/Blogs
- 3 Letters to the Editor
- 101 Radio interviews
  - 31 Nationally Syndicated shows
- 66 TV interviews
  - 19 on Fox Business
  - 13 on Fox News



Congressman Burgess conducts a radio interview on health care reform.

### Articles Mentioning Congressman Burgess

- [North Texas Lawmakers Set Agendas for 111th Congress](#) – Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 1/6
- [Burgess to study economic issues](#) – Denton Record-Chronicle, 2/6
- [Burgess, Williams address crowd on energy conservation](#) – Lewisville Leader, 7/14
- [Burgess talks to crowd during town hall Saturday](#) – The Weekly News of Cooke County, 8/13
- [Business owners decry healthcare bills at Burgess town hall](#) – Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 8/19
- [State and local leaders present for Pecan Creek project ceremony](#) – Gainesville Daily Register, 9/15
- [Obama and lawmakers mourn the 13 murdered soldiers at Fort Hood](#) – The Hill, 11/10
- [Pressure mounts for Geithner to resign](#) – The Washington Times, 11/20
- [Transportation officials talk about projects](#) – Gainesville Daily Register, 12/2

***For more articles, visit the [“Burgess In The News”](#) section of my website***

### Videos of Interviews, Committee Hearings, Floor Speeches, and other Events

- [Burgess Tours New Health Clinic in Southeast Fort Worth](#) – KTVT, 7/1
- [Burgess on WFAA’s Inside Texas Politics](#), 8/30
- [Burgess on Fox News’ Huckabee](#), 9/19
- [Burgess Questions Treasury Secretary Geithner During JEC Hearing](#), 11/19

***For more videos, visit my [YouTube site](#).***

## Columns and Letters to the Editor Authored by Congressman Burgess

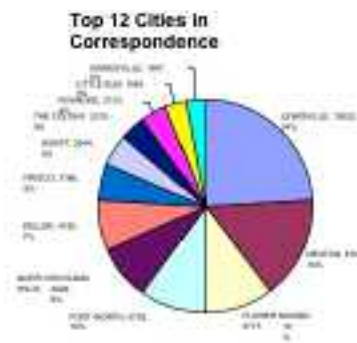
- [Burgess: Special prosecutor needed](#) – Denton Record-Chronicle, 3/23
- [Burgess: The Consequences of “Cap and Tax”](#) – The Hill, 4/23
- [Burgess: Medical liability insurance reform must be part of healthcare debate](#) – Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 7/19
- [Barton and Burgess: A better remedy for health reform](#) – Dallas Morning News – 7/21
- [Letter to the Editor: Renew critical VA research](#) – Dallas Morning News, 8/31
- [Rep. Michael Burgess: What this doctor would tell Obama](#) – The Hill, 9/10

**For more columns, visit the “*Burgess In The News*” section of my website**

**Be sure to follow me on Twitter -  
@MichaelCBurgess**

## Correspondence with North Texans

I heard from over 61,000 North Texans about the issues that concern you the most. Health care was the #1 topic, followed by the economy and energy policy. North Texans in Lewisville sent the most correspondence, almost 25 percent, followed by Denton (16%), Flower Mound (10%), and Fort Worth (10%).



Over 1,500 North Texans contacted me needing help with a federal agency on issues such as social security benefits, passports, and federal grants. I also wrote letters supporting North Texans for Service Academy Nominations, grant applications, and a variety of congratulatory letters for Service members, Eagle Scout and Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, and centenarians. In May, over 9,000 North Texas high school graduates received a certificate of congratulations from me for completing their high school career in one of the many top-notch high schools in Texas’ 26th Congressional district.

## Events and Meetings

Over the course of the past year, I held or attended 390 events, including 12 Chamber of Commerce Meetings, 173 health care-related meetings and events, and energy, education and transportation-related events as well. I met with North Texans from Gainesville to Forrest Hill and from Frisco to Argyle, and everything in between.



Congressman Burgess and Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams answer questions from the audience during the 2009 Energy Efficiency Summit in July.

- I held seven Town Halls in seven different areas of my district – Keller, North Richland Hills/Hurst, Highland Village, Gainesville, Fort Worth, Flower Mound, and Denton – and 7 Telephone Town Halls.
- I hosted four summits that brought leaders from the local, state and federal levels together to address the issues facing North Texas.
- Emergency Preparedness Summit – April 18, 2009  
Keynote Speaker: Greg Fields, Meteorologist, WFAA-TV, ABC Channel 8
- Energy Efficiency Summit – July 11, 2009  
Keynote Speaker: Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams



Congressman Burgess speaks to North Texans at a Town Hall Meeting in Denton in August.

- Economic Development Summit – September 18, 2009  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Peter Cowhey, Senior Counselor to the US Trade Representative
- Transportation Summit – November 30, 2009  
Federal Keynote Speaker: United States Transportation Secretary Ray LaHool  
State Keynote Speaker: Rep. Joe Pickett, Chairman of the Texas House Transportation Committee
- I was also honored to give the commencement address in May at the University of North Texas Health Sciences Center graduation ceremony.

## Awards

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

- US Chamber of Commerce “Spirit of Enterprise”
- The Club for Growth “Defender of Economic Freedom”
- National Taxpayers Union “Taxpayers' Friend Award”
- American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons “2009 Congressional Leadership Award”
- Council for Citizens Against Government Waste “Taxpayer Hero Award”
- Emergency Nurses Association “Public Service Award”
- Multiple Sclerosis Society “House Legislator of the Year”
- American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists  
"Eugene T. Davidson, M.D., Award for Public Service"



Congressman Burgess delivers the commencement address at the 2009 University of North Texas Health Sciences Center graduation ceremony in May.



Norah O'Donnell, MSNBC's Chief Washington Correspondent and a member of the Multiple Sclerosis Society's National Capitol Chapter's Board of Directors presents Congressman Burgess with an award for his work on the issue of multiple sclerosis.

## Stay Connected With Congressman Burgess

<http://burgess.house.gov>

<http://www.healthcaucus.org>

<http://www.youtube.com/MichaelCBurgessMD>

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

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