

**REP.  
RUSH  
HOLT**

## Town Hall Meetings

[www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov)

I hope to see you at these upcoming meetings to discuss issues such as Social Security, economic development, hometown security, health care, education, and anything else that may be on your mind.

**Saturday, March 4**

**South River Borough**

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Criminal Justice Building  
61 Main Street

**Saturday, March 4**

**City of Trenton**

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Thomas Edison State College  
101 W. State Street

**Sunday, March 5**

**Pennington Borough**

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Toll Gate Grammar School  
275 South Main Street

**Monday, March 6**

**Manalapan Township**

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Monmouth County  
Library Headquarters  
125 Symmes Drive

*To receive more regular updates about my activities in New Jersey and in Washington, D.C., please visit my webpage at [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov) and sign up for my e-mail newsletter.*

### REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT

*As your Congressman,  
I am here to help.  
Contact me any time.*

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**To learn more or to send me an e-mail, go to: [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov)**

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M.C.  
PRSRT-STD

REPRESENTATIVE RUSH HOLT



# Report To Central New Jersey

FEBRUARY 2006

Dear Friend,

Throughout the year I hold town meetings across Central New Jersey in order to listen to New Jerseyans, and to report in person on my work. Families and businesses face a range of challenges and opportunities, and it is helpful to hear your thoughts and recommendations on them. It is my honor and privilege to represent you, and I can do that most effectively by knowing what is on your mind.

Despite the cynicism I encounter in Washington and in New Jersey, I remain optimistic about our future. By making the right choices today, we can put our state and the nation on strong footing for the coming decades. Admittedly, there are many areas where our government could be making better decisions. I spend my time and energy talking with New Jerseyans to understand the real problems, meeting with experts, examining the evidence, looking for solutions that work, and building bipartisan consensus for those solutions. As straightforward as that sounds, it's not the typical approach.

This newsletter is designed to update you on some of the issues important to local families, and what I am doing to address them. If you are unable to attend one of my upcoming town meetings, please call (toll-free at 1-87-RUSH-HOLT) or e-mail (through [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov)) about these or other topics. Also, please feel free to enlist my help resolving a bureaucratic problem. I work for you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Rush Holt  
Member of Congress

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Please visit my website at [www.holt.house.gov](http://www.holt.house.gov) to learn more about what I am working on, and to sign up for my weekly e-mail newsletter, the [eGenda](#).

The last few years have shown us the importance of meaningful investment in and reform of federal emergency preparation. Whether in preparation for manmade or natural disasters, there is much that we can do to improve our hometown security. In Washington, I am working to pass legislation to protect the rail and port systems that are critical to New Jersey and to adjust the federal homeland security funding formula so that high-risk areas – those with substantial population and infrastructure, like New Jersey – receive support in proportion to their risk.

It is obvious after Hurricane Katrina that federal emergency agencies must have experienced leadership if they are to be effective. Local authorities – if equipped, trained, and dedicated – offer our best defense against disasters when coupled with our military defenses. I recently met with more than 50 first responders and emergency coordinators in Middlesex County in order to discuss ways that the

federal government can improve its disaster prevention and emergency response here in New Jersey. Each state and community has different needs and I want to make sure that our local police officers, firefighters, and EMTs have what they need to be effective. Federal assistance should go toward making sure that first responders from neighboring jurisdictions have communications equipment that is interoperable, that good systems exist for sharing intelligence and warnings about possible threats, and that we practice responding to emergencies rapidly, efficiently, and effectively.

To help meet these needs, I am working to pass the CONNECT for First Responders Act (H.R. 1251), which would direct the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to ensure that states and localities have the resources they need to respond effectively. I am also working to preserve the force size and structure of the New Jersey National Guard, which plays a vital role in emergencies. ▶



*Rush discusses at a recent town hall meeting his efforts to make college more affordable*

**MAKING THINGS HAPPEN**

Last month, 214 constituents contacted Rush for help resolving problems with federal agencies. Recently, Rush was able to help a Ewing resident secure over \$13,000 in overdue worker's compensation for an injury she sustained on the job.

A prosperous future requires a well-educated workforce and equal opportunity for every child. As a member of the House Education Committee, I remain committed to ensuring that New Jersey schools receive the funding they were promised under the No Child Left Behind Act (this year alone, funding lags by \$15 billion), expanding training opportunities for math and science teachers, and making a college education more affordable. Because our national deficiency in foreign languages threatens our security and economic competitiveness, I have also introduced legislation to establish “pipeline” programs that will help students master critical-need

foreign languages by providing continuity from kindergarten through the end of college.

Supporting students also means ensuring their health at school. That is why I have introduced legislation to require that schools across the nation implement integrated pest management (IPM) systems, as most New Jersey schools do. Children are biologically more vulnerable to pesticides, and, as reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, most of the diagnosed exposures occur in schools. My legislation would help protect students and employees from exposure to toxic pesticides sometimes used in and around schools. ▶



*Rush discusses the expansion of a toll-free telephone hotline for children and adolescents in need of counseling with Ewing residents, students, and parents*

**Supporting Research**

Medical research is an investment in the truest sense of the word – dollars spent improving the way we diagnose, treat, and cure diseases pay dividends through improved health care down the road. Medical research also constitutes a huge portion of our state's economy. I believe that President Bush's recent proposal to cut \$40 million from the National Cancer Institute, which conducts research and awards grants to those studying leukemia and other forms of cancer, is short-sighted.

I am proud that New Jersey recently became the first state in the nation to fund publicly embryonic stem cell research. This research offers great promise in treating diseases like diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, spinal cord injuries, and many others. Though the House of Representatives approved federal funding of stem cell research last May, powerful opponents in the Senate and White House continue to block enactment. Having spent much of my career in research, I will continue to work to ensure that research decisions are based on science, not politics. ▶