

2021 MID-YEAR REPORT



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Dear Neighbor,

As we reach the halfway point of this year, I am glad to share with you a 2021 **Mid-Year Report** of my work on behalf of Texas' Seventh Congressional District.

The first six months of the 117th Congress have been eventful. From responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, to helping our neighbors during Winter Storm Uri and fighting to protect our democracy, I am committed to addressing the challenges facing our community. I was proud to work on the American Rescue Plan, a comprehensive bill to address the many impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are seeing the direct results of this legislation already. I also serve on the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over so many of the matters of great importance to our community, including energy and health care. You will find a summary of this and more highlights from the first six months of the year on the pages that follow.

I am honored and proud to be your representative to the United States Congress, and to do my part to ensure that we address the many challenges before us together. Please remember that you are welcome to call me and my team if there is anything we can do to help, or if you have any questions, at any time.

Best wishes,

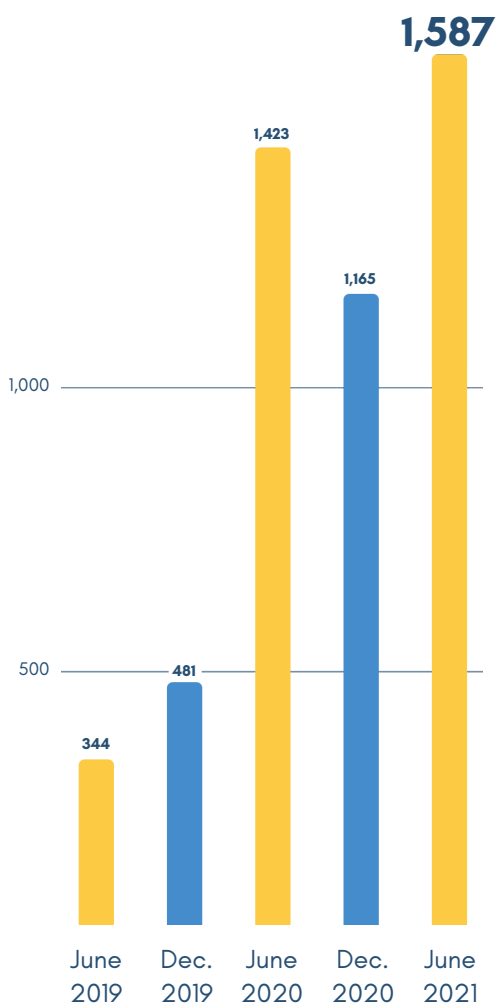


SERVING CONSTITUENTS

Working with, and for, our community is my priority. It is a privilege for me and for our district team to be able to help, especially in these difficult times. We are glad to receive your calls and questions, and we are dedicated to serving our neighbors in every way we can.

HELP WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

Total Cases Closed **5,000**



CASES CLOSED OVER SUCCESSIVE 6-MONTH INCREMENTS SINCE TAKING OFFICE IN JANUARY 2019

2021 By the Numbers

2,683
Phone Calls Answered

25,505
Letters Sent to Constituents

\$380,058,302
Federal Dollars Returned to Constituents from
IRS, FEMA, SSA, etc.

\$74,893,612
Federal Grant Dollars
Returned to TX-07

Constituent Meetings: 714

2021 Community Meetings

- January: SBA Webinar on PPP Loans
- February: Telephone Town Hall on the Texas Winter Storm
- March: Virtual Constituent Services Pop-Up Office Hours
- March: Telephone Town Hall on COVID-19 Vaccines
- April: Virtual Town Hall: Expanding Health Care in Texas with State Rep. Ann Johnson
- May: Restaurant Revitalization Fund SBA Webinar
- May: Virtual Community Conversation: The First 100 Days: An Update with State Rep. Jon Rosenthal
- June: Mid-Year Telephone Town Hall

A continuing list of our office's events is available at:
fletcher.house.gov/events

To receive emails about upcoming events, sign up at:
fletcher.house.gov/newsletter

Do you need help with a federal agency? Contact us at:
fletcher.house.gov/forms/casework

March 31, 2021

We are so grateful for Lizzie Fletcher and her team! My husband lost his job in June of 2020 due to the pandemic. My salary was basically cut in half and we just had a new baby.

We had filed our 2020 taxes, but the IRS had already issued a stimulus to us that was less than a third for a family of four under the American Rescue Plan that was passed. We desperately needed the full stimulus we qualified for, so we contacted Lizzie Fletcher's office and her team was very responsive. They contacted us right away and went to work for us.

We have been struggling this past year and the stimulus was finally going to provide us with some breathing room. My husband is a Veteran and he has been struggling with not being able to work and when we didn't get the full stimulus, we broke down. We needed someone to go to bat for us and Lizzie did!

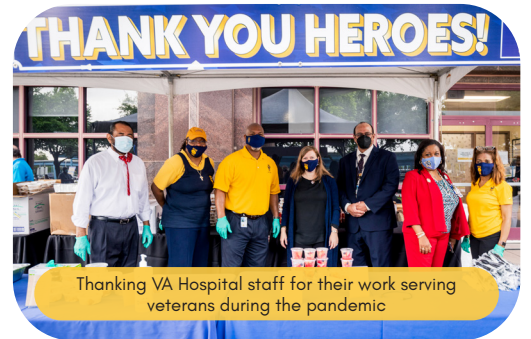
Within two weeks we saw a new deposit for the remaining stimulus money we qualified for and I started to cry. Finally, someone was listening to us - someone heard our plea for help and we are forever grateful!

The stimulus is designed to help families like ours today and not tomorrow - that is what Lizzie and her team did. From the bottom of our hearts - thank you and may God bless you all!

Angelica F.



Touring the BakerRipley/Houston Methodist vaccination site in Gullfion



Thanking VA Hospital staff for their work serving veterans during the pandemic



Attending the groundbreaking of "Our New J" at the Jewish Community Center

Village News/Southwest News | June 15, 2021

Congresswoman Calls for Investigation of Significant Problems at Local Post Offices

An audit by the U.S. Postal Service in April showed more delayed or lost mail in this area than anywhere else in the United States. In addition, there have been more thefts from mail boxes on postal property; more robberies of postal carriers; more missing and unrecovered packages and flats.

Now a U.S. Congresswoman is trying to do something about it.

Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher is calling on the Postmaster Inspector General to investigate persistent cases of mail theft and other mail service issues at postal offices in Texas' Seventh Congressional District.

"Since May 2019, constituents have contacted my office with reports of stolen and lost mail, mailboxes that have been broken into or need repairs to be functional, and washed checks,"

wrote Congresswoman Fletcher. "Many of my constituents rely on the USPS for lifesaving medications, stimulus checks, tax refunds, and correspondence with loved ones in this challenging and isolating time... Houstonians cannot wait for meaningful changes at the North Houston P&DC nor should they have to continue without remedy as mail is stolen and accessible services are removed."



Distributing water in the Texas Winter Storm's immediate aftermath



Learning about small cells and closing the digital divide with Crown Castle in TX-07

HELP IS HERE

THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN:

Crushing COVID-19, Helping Families, Supporting Communities

TX-07 and the American Rescue Plan

In addition to **\$16 billion in COVID relief funds for Texas**, governments in Texas' Seventh Congressional District are estimated to receive an additional **\$1.54 billion in funding**.

Harris County	\$914,120,000
City of Houston	\$615,440,000
City of Bellaire	\$4,140,000
Bunker Hill Village	\$860,000
Hedwig Village	\$570,000
Hilshire Village	\$180,000
Hunters Creek Village	\$1,060,000
Jersey Village	\$1,720,000
Piney Point Village	\$750,000
Southside Place	\$410,000
Spring Valley Village	\$940,000
West University Place	\$3,400,000

Estimated Total \$1,543,590,000

Note: Estimates use FY2020 HUD data to identify populations eligible for assistance, and may not include localities that relinquished their CDBG allocation in that year. Funding to localities on this list would be reduced to the extent that such cities apply for and receive funding as a metro city under this proposal. Estimates calculated by House Committee on Oversight and Reform on March 8, 2021.

Direct Financial Assistance

\$1,400
Direct Checks

\$3,600
per child aged 0-5

\$1,000
Tax Credit

\$3,000
per child aged 6-17

Starting July 15, qualifying families will start seeing Child Tax Credits deposited to their bank accounts or mailed to them!

Who Benefits?

88 percent of Texans received stimulus payments of up to **\$1,400 per person**.¹

82.5% of children in TX-07 will gain from the expanded and improved Child Tax Credit – **170,100 children**.²

6.6 million Texas families are estimated to receive a child tax credit, helping lift **503,000 Texas children** out of poverty.¹

240,000 Houston families receiving SNAP will see a **15% increase in SNAP** amount.³

1.4 million Texas workers are now eligible for a **\$1,000 Earned Income Tax Credit**.¹

1. White House; 2. House Appropriations Committee; 3. Greater Houston Partnership

The American Rescue Plan and Your Health Care

Making Health Care More Affordable

The American Rescue Plan makes health coverage through [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) more accessible and affordable. **How?**

- Provides financial assistance: Enrollees will pay no more than 8.5% of their income toward coverage, down from nearly 10%.
- Expands who is eligible to save money: According to HHS, more than 500,000 currently uninsured Texans are newly eligible for subsidies to make their health coverage more affordable in the Marketplaces.
- COBRA: Laid-off workers who want to can remain on their employer health insurance plans through COBRA, ensuring they do not pay any premiums until the end of September.

Estimated Savings in Health Care

- A family of four with an annual income of \$40,000 would save nearly \$1,600 annually.
- A family of four with an annual income of \$65,000 would save nearly \$2,800 annually.
- A family of four with an annual income of over \$105,000, who previously did not qualify for subsidies, would see their premiums cut almost in half and save \$7,000 annually.

Signed into law: Fletcher's Expand Medicaid Now Act

Included as part of the American Rescue Plan, the Expand Medicaid Now Act encourages states to expand Medicaid by increasing federal funds for any new expansion state. In Texas, more than 1 million people would gain access to health care through Medicaid expansion, including more than 200,000 residents in Harris County.



Need to Sign Up for Health Care?

You have until August 15!

Check if you and your family qualify for lower premiums.

Visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or [CuidadoDeSalud.gov](https://www.cuidadodesalud.gov).

Call the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 for assistance in more than 150 languages.

GET VACCINATED!

Learn more at [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

LEADERSHIP

Whether I'm in Houston or in Washington, D.C., my job is to stand up for our district. Through partnerships with our community, committee work, and legislation, my priority is TX-07.

Committee Assignments

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- Health Subcommittee
- Communications & Technology Subcommittee
- Consumer Protection & Commerce Subcommittee

House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

- Environment Subcommittee



Announcing the COVER Now Act with colleagues, which would allow local entities to expand Medicaid



In Jersey Village for the groundbreaking of the Berm & Wall Street Project, a flood mitigation project



Speaking to press with Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm after a tour of Air Liquide

Houston Chronicle | April 26, 2021

‘This is the time’: Rep. Lizzie Fletcher pushes for Ike Dike in Biden infrastructure bill

By Ben Wermund

WASHINGTON — As congressional Democrats hash out a plan to spend more than \$2 trillion on the nation’s crumbling infrastructure, it’s unclear how much — if any — of that money would go toward a long-sought

barrier to protect the Texas Gulf Coast from catastrophic storm surge.

But at least one Houston Democrat is making it her mission to ensure the package includes funding for the latest version of the so-called Ike Dike, a proposed \$26 billion project that would fundamentally alter the southeast Texas coastline.

“This is the time to make the case,” said U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher.

Fletcher is telling the Biden administration and Democrats on key committees drafting the infrastructure bill that the Ike Dike isn’t just a project to protect Texas. If storm surge were to head north into the Houston Ship Channel and shut down the Port of Houston — the busiest port in the country and home to much of the nation’s petrochemical industry — it would have “dire” economic consequences for the entire nation, Fletcher recently testified to a House committee.

“The potential environmental and human catastrophe that would come from that storm surge ... it’s beyond anything I think our country has ever seen,” Fletcher said in an interview with Hearst Newspapers. “People need to know and understand that.”

Read the full article on [HoustonChronicle.com](https://www.houstonchronicle.com)



With Houston Delegation colleagues expressing frustration at the GLO's decision to award 0 dollars to Houston and Harris County

Houston Public Media | February 18, 2021

Fletcher Demands Investigation Into ERCOT Following Mass Power Outages

By Andrew Schneider

As Houston area residents struggle to cope with the worst winter storm in more than 30 years, they're looking to the state and federal government for answers. Why was the region so unprepared? And what can be done to prevent another collapse of the state's power grid?

Houston Public Media spoke with Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher, a Democrat who represents West Houston and western Harris County, to get her take on how to respond.

Schneider: What is the federal government in a position to do to make sure that it doesn't happen again?

Fletcher: Our congressional delegation has sent a letter

demanding answers from ERCOT and the Public Utility Commission of Texas about what led to these failures, what the next steps are to make sure that power's restored immediately. But then also we need a full investigation, and we need to understand what's happened and why. I work with Congressman Veasey, from Fort Worth. We both serve together on the Energy and Commerce Committee, and we're supporting a FERC investigation into the failures that led to the crisis. But I think it is apparent to everyone in the state of Texas that there have been multiple failures, and we need to make sure that these failures, which have happened over many years, need to be addressed and corrected as quickly as possible.

Listen to the full interview at HoustonPublicMedia.org

Caucus Membership

(partial list)

- New Democrat Coalition
 - Infrastructure Task Force
- Natural Gas Caucus, Co-Chair
- Access to Legal Aid Caucus
- Animal Protection Caucus
- Asian Pacific American Caucus
- Black Maternal Health Caucus
- Equality Caucus
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- Oceans Caucus
- Oil and Gas Caucus
- PFAS Task Force
- PORTS Caucus
- Pro Choice Caucus
- Task Force for Combating Antisemitism
- Venezuela Democracy Caucus

January 6 Capitol Attack

On January 6, we experienced an unprecedented—almost unimaginable—attack on our country. As we convened to do the most sacred of duties, certifying the states' results of the electoral college for the next President of the United States, a mob stormed the United States Capitol building. I was present in the House of Representatives chamber as the Capitol building and the democratic system of government that it represents was attacked.

Our work to investigate that day continues, from uncovering the series of events that led up to the attack to make sure this can never happen again, to honoring the Capitol Police who risked and sacrificed their lives to protect our democracy.



Honoring U.S. Capitol Police Officer Bryan Sicknick, lying in honor after the Capitol attack

TAKING ACTION

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW: 117TH CONGRESS

Led:

7

Bills

Co-Sponsored:

107

Bills

Votes:

94

Total

INTRODUCED LEGISLATION: 117TH CONGRESS

Partial list. [Click here](#) to learn more about legislation I have introduced, co-sponsored, and voted on.

STOP COVID-19 TEST SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS



Stop Surprise Medical Billing for COVID-19 Tests Act

During the pandemic, constituents have contacted my office after receiving surprise medical bills from getting a COVID-19 test. This is unacceptable. Congress passed legislation to end surprise medical billing and ensure COVID-19 tests are accessible and free, but loopholes allow insurers to continue to arbitrarily charge.

The Stop Surprise Medical Billing for COVID-19 Tests Act closes these loopholes so that individuals can get tested for any reason and provides transparency in test pricing.

The LIFT UP Act

Supporting Houston's small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic



Loan Interest Forgiveness for Taxpayers Under a Pandemic (LIFT UP) Act

Congress provided vital support to small businesses during the pandemic through CARES Act loans. This support has been critical to mitigating the devastating economic impacts of the pandemic, but small business owners in our community who had also taken out SBA loans to help them through previous disasters, like Hurricane Harvey, need additional flexibility to pay off these loans.

The LIFT UP Act extends the six-month period of debt forgiveness provided by the CARES Act to these loans to provide additional relief for these businesses.

HAZARD ELIGIBILITY AND LOCAL PROJECTS ACT

THE HELP ACT

**MOVING FORWARD FROM THE LAST STORM.
BEING READY FOR THE NEXT ONE.**



Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects (HELP) Act

I reintroduced the HELP Act to help expedite disaster mitigation projects after natural disasters. Under current law, local and state agencies applying for federal funds to begin recovery projects must wait until they receive approval from FEMA before purchasing land or starting construction on a project. Purchasing land or starting construction without approval disqualifies the project from receiving federal assistance.

The HELP Act allows certain eligible disaster mitigation projects to begin without the risk of losing potential federal funds.

REGROW ACT

**CLEANING UP ORPHANED OIL WELLS
CREATING JOBS FOR ENERGY WORKERS**



Revive Economic Growth and Reclaim Orphaned Wells (REGROW) Act

There are more than 56,000 documented "orphaned" oil and gas wells across the country, which can leak methane and contaminate groundwater, harming our environment and creating public health risks.

The REGROW Act aims to plug every documented orphan well in the country by investing \$4.6 billion toward cleaning up these sites. The bill also creates jobs for oilfield workers in Texas and across the country, which is especially important after the downturn brought on by COVID-19.

THE CARS FOR VETS ACT



Care Access Resources (CARS) for Vets Act

In our community and communities across the country, cars are essential for transportation. For disabled veterans, driving a car can present challenges. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a grant program that provides service-connected disabled veterans with a one-time payment to adapt their vehicle for their medical needs if their disability prevents them from driving.

To adapt for the limited life-cycle of cars, the CARS for Vets Act authorizes the VA to provide an eligible person with an additional vehicle if 10 years have elapsed since they received their previously covered vehicle.



STAY IN TOUCH!

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