



*Congresswoman*  
**JAN Schakowsky**

**YOUR VOICE IN WASHINGTON**



***Congressional Survey Enclosed***



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

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9th Congressional District  
Illinois

*Congresswoman* **JAN Schakowsky**  
**YOUR VOICE IN WASHINGTON**

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**Washington, D.C. Office:**  
515 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Phone: 202/225-2111  
Fax: 202/226-6890



**Chicago Office:**  
Phone: 773/506-7100  
**Evanston Office:**  
Phone: 847/328-3409  
**Northwest Side Office:**  
Phone: 847/298-2128

E-mail: [jan.schakowsky@mail.house.gov](mailto:jan.schakowsky@mail.house.gov)

Web: [www.house.gov/schakowsky/](http://www.house.gov/schakowsky/)

September 2003

Dear Friend,

Thanks to the thousands of you who have written, phoned, faxed and e-mailed over the past year. You shared your views about everything including foreign policy and animal rights, the Patriot Act and trade policy. The most frequent communications related to the war in Iraq, the environment, Medicare and Social Security, taxes and the economy, education and media consolidation. All of your communications are deeply appreciated, and I have read many of them on the floor of the House of Representatives during debates on important legislation.

At the three 9th Congressional District offices in Chicago, Evanston and Park Ridge (formerly our Niles office), at least 2,000 constituents sought help to resolve a myriad of personal frustrations with bureaucratic red tape within the last year. Not surprisingly, considering the large number of immigrant families who make our communities their home and the historically inefficient services provided by the INS, the greatest number of problems, about 65%, dealt with immigration issues and visas. The other common concerns were Social Security, veterans benefits, health insurance, Medicare, postal service, housing, and consumer issues.

The dedicated Constituent Advocates on my staff have been able to resolve many problems in ways that can be life transforming—uniting families that have been scattered across the globe, securing long overdue war medals for WWII veterans, adjusting the Social Security check of a nearly impoverished senior citizen, or assuring the continuation of health care coverage for a sick constituent.

Whether about policy decisions or personal issues, these communications are not only the lifeblood of a Congressional office, they are the backbone of our democracy. Without your input, your government simply would not work very well.

Next year all eligible Americans will have the opportunity to exercise one of our most precious rights—the right to vote for our nation's leaders. Those leaders make decisions that will affect your family

budget as well as the national budget, the air you breathe and the future health of our planet, the quality of the public schools which serve 90% of our children, millions of jobs (maybe even yours), access to affordable health care, the relationship of the U.S. to the rest of the world, civil liberties and privacy, reproductive rights, retirement and homeland security, the global AIDS pandemic, ethnic conflicts and peace on earth—to name just a few.

The same questions that are discussed not only on the evening news but every night at dinner tables like yours are, in a large part, answered by your representatives. The decisions that leaders make are just too important and affect too many lives to be made without your voice. I share your concerns for our families and future generations and value your opinions as Congress takes steps to address critical issues facing our nation.

You can register to vote right now by going to: [www.house.gov/schakowsky/](http://www.house.gov/schakowsky/), the Department of Motor Vehicles, any branch of the Chicago Public Library, the County Clerk's offices, and public health and public aid offices. And please, send back the questionnaire, and keep those cards and letters coming!



## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Offices:

#### Chicago office:

5533 N. Broadway  
Chicago, IL 60640  
Phone: 773/506-7100  
Fax: 773/506-9202

#### Evanston office:

820 Davis Street, Suite 105  
Evanston, IL 60201  
Phone: 847/328-3409  
Fax: 847/328-3425

#### Northwest Side office:

1420 Renaissance Drive, Suite 102  
Park Ridge, IL 60068  
Phone: 847/298-2128  
Fax: 847/298-2173

#### Washington, D.C. Office:

515 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: 202/225-2111  
Fax: 202/226-6890

**Email Address:** [jan.schakowsky@mail.house.gov](mailto:jan.schakowsky@mail.house.gov)

**Web Page:** <http://www.house.gov/schakowsky/>

# Congressional Survey



	Respondent One		Respondent Two
1. Do you believe:			
a. The White House misrepresented the threat posed to the U.S. by Iraq?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
b. Congress should create an independent commission to determine if the White House misled Congress and the American people?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
c. The U.S. should have acted <i>only</i> with U.N. support?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
d. It was a good idea for the U.S. to wage war on Iraq?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<hr/>			
2. President Bush changed long-standing American policy which permitted waging full-scale war on a country only when it posed an immediate and lethal threat, to one allowing unilateral preemptive military strikes on countries deemed to have the potential of posing such a threat. Do you support this Doctrine of Preemption?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<hr/>			
3. The House-passed Medicare bill explicitly prohibits the federal government from negotiating with the drug companies on behalf of beneficiaries for lower cost drugs. Do you support that policy?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<hr/>			
4. Since President Clinton left office, more than three million workers have lost their jobs. Should Congress repeal portions of his tax breaks for the top income brackets and use the funds to invest in job creation programs such as school construction and public works projects?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<hr/>			
5. The President's budget proposal cuts veterans benefits by \$6 billion over 10 years. Would you support funding veterans' health care and retirement benefits by reducing future scheduled tax cuts that benefit those making more than a million dollars a year?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<hr/>			
6. Do you support the right of same sex couples to:			
a. marry?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
b. join in civil unions?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<hr/>			
7. Should the federal government require testing and safety certification of common children's products, including baby carriers and high chairs, before they are sold in stores?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<hr/>			
8. Should Congress repeal section 215 of the PATRIOT Act, which gives federal agents access to library, medical, educational and financial records without a criminal warrant?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
<hr/>			
9. Are you and your family better off today than you were four years ago?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO



## YOUR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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**This survey can also be filled out on our website: <http://www.house.gov/schakowsky/>**  
 Survey results will be posted on the webpage.

Your E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please include your return address when mailing back survey.

**Your Return Address:**

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E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please  
Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky**  
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Washington, D.C. 20515

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