



CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

2005 CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES SURVEY



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Dear Neighbor:

This year, the Congress will be addressing a number of issues that affect each of us personally and the Nation as a whole. Among the most troubling ideas in Washington is the President's plan to privatize Social Security – whether in whole or in part. Social Security has been a sacred compact with the American people for the last 70 years. We all pay into Social Security – and we have the right to expect that we will receive benefits when we retire. I will put all my effort into maintaining that sacred compact between the federal government and the American people.



Another key issue facing our country is the lack of access to quality health care. We have 45 million people without health insurance. Unfortunately, rather than address that problem, the President and Republican positions in Congress may jeopardize it. They are trying to convert Medicaid from an entitlement to a block grant which will further reduce access to health care for those with modest incomes. The Medicare prescription drug law needs major changes. This year may provide an opportunity to revise the law and improve drug coverage for seniors. I'll work to build support in Congress for that effort. Given these upcoming battles, I'd like to know your priorities in health care.

Finally, our country will continue to deal with the devastating war in Iraq. I strongly opposed the war in Iraq. I support the efforts of our brave women and men in combat, but I've been very critical of the Administration's management of the war. I think it was misguided to get into the war without international support and without a plan to establish peace.

I look forward to hearing your views. It's impossible to cover every topic in a single survey, but I've listed major issues that will likely come before Congress this year and I'd like to know your priorities. In addition, I've asked some specific questions on major topics we are sure to address. If it is easier, you can fill out this survey by going to my website: www.house.gov/stark. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Pete Stark

Below is a list of major issues expected to come before Congress this year. Please rank your top three priorities (1-2-3). If an issue is not listed that is important to you, you may write it in next to the "other" option.

Rank:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preserving Social Security | <input type="checkbox"/> Expanding access to affordable child care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting Medicare | <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing resources for homeland security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting a woman's right to choose | <input type="checkbox"/> Increasing the minimum wage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making the President's tax cuts permanent | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping families afford college |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making health care more affordable to families | <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting our environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fully funding the No Child Left Behind education law | <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing our national debt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring veterans have adequate health care | <input type="checkbox"/> Ending the war in Iraq |
| Other: _____ | |

President Bush has announced that reforming Social Security is his top agenda item for the coming year. Given what you know so far about his plan, are you inclined to support or oppose his initiative?

- Support Oppose

The Bush Administration plan would create new private accounts within Social Security, divert \$2 trillion from the Social Security Trust Fund, add to the national debt and result in a reduction in guaranteed Social Security benefits. Knowing this, are you inclined to support or oppose the President's plan?

- Support Oppose

What are your priorities for improving access and quality of health care in the United States?

	Top priority	Important, but not top priority	Not too important	Shouldn't be done at all
a. Improving the Medicare prescription drug law that was enacted in 2003	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Expanding the number of Americans with health insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Lowering the cost of health care and insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Improving the quality of medical care and reducing the number of medical errors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Allowing prescription drugs to be imported from Canada	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Enacting a new national program for long term care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Holding the drug companies accountable when they have not disclosed dangers of their medications	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you think the war with Iraq has improved OR threatened the long-term security of the United States?

- Improved security Threatened security

Do you think the United States should pull out of Iraq as soon as possible, or wait until a new government has stabilized and violence ended?

- Pull out ASAP Stay in Iraq

RETURN THIS SURVEY BY MAIL: 39300 Civic Center Dr., Suite 220, Fremont, CA 94538

COMPLETE THIS SURVEY ONLINE: www.house.gov/stark



CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK
39300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 220
Fremont • California • 94538

www.house.gov/stark
(510) 494-1388

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Official Business

This mailing was prepared, published
and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Pete Stark
M.C.
PRESORTED STANDARD

LET ME HEAR FROM YOU.

Please contact my Fremont office, visit my website or email me for assistance with federal agencies, updates on important legislation and information on visits to Washington, D.C.

Fremont Office
510-494-1388

Website
www.house.gov/stark

Email
petemaildirect@stark.house.gov

TOWN MEETINGS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2005

UNION CITY: 9:30 – 10:00 A.M.
Ruggieri Senior Center, 33997 Alvarado Niles Blvd.

SAN LEANDRO: 10:30 – 11:30 A.M.
San Leandro Library Lecture Hall, 300 Estudillo Ave.

ALAMEDA: NOON – 1:00 P.M.
Alameda City Council Chambers, 2263 Santa Clara Ave.