

**Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' Contact Information**



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Tucson, AZ 85712  
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**Stay Informed!** Sign up for my e-newsletter at [www.giffords.house.gov](http://www.giffords.house.gov)

**National "Fiscal Wake-Up Tour" Makes a stop in Tucson**



**David Walker**, Comptroller General of the U.S. and Director of the General Accounting Office (GAO), visited Southern Arizona in January to discuss the current economic downturn and the status of the federal budget as part of the "Fiscal Wake-Up Tour." During his presentation to over 200 people, Mr. Walker relayed his first-hand perspective on America's fiscal crisis and provided solution options to fixing our near \$9 trillion federal debt.

The national "Fiscal Wake-Up Tour" is being sponsored by organizations such as the Heritage Foundation, the Brookings Institution, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and AARP.

For more information about the tour, please visit [www.concordcoalition.org/events/fiscal-wake-up](http://www.concordcoalition.org/events/fiscal-wake-up).

**U.S. 'addicted to debt'**

*AZ Daily Star*, February 1, 2008

**- U.S. 'addicted to debt' Comptroller general's 'Fiscal Wake-Up Tour' doesn't pull punches**

"The buck stopped . . . somewhere. And the government is out of money. . . . Walker brought his Fiscal Wake-Up Tour presentation to town at the behest of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords... the Government Accountability Office is non-partisan and presents only facts."

**Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords**

1661 N. Swan, Suite 112  
Tucson, AZ 85712

*Gabrielle Giffords*  
M.C.  
PRE-SORTED STANDARD

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**Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords**  
1661 N. Swan, Suite 112  
Tucson, AZ 85712

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



**CONGRESSWOMAN GABRIELLE GIFFORDS | REPRESENTING ARIZONA'S DISTRICT 8**

**Tax Relief for Arizona Families and Individuals**

**Dear Southern Arizonan,**

Our state, along with the nation, is in the middle of a deepening economic downturn. Arizona is 1 of 4 states generating more than 30% of the nation's housing foreclosures. Our job growth has dropped from 6% annually in 2005 to below 1.3%. Arizona residents face rising energy costs – gas rose from \$1.47 to \$2.96 per gallon from January 2001 to 2008. And our state's health care premiums have risen 33.8% since 2000.



Congresswoman Giffords has been listening to families about the economy.

Congress is working to jumpstart our sluggish economy. On February 7, 2008, the House passed the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, a bipartisan bill to provide tax relief to qualified taxpayers of up to \$300 per individual and \$600 per family, including veterans and senior citizens. I am pleased that this package will give a much-needed boost to 2.5 million households in Arizona and more than 130 million Americans nationwide.

Please do not hesitate to contact my Tucson or Cochise County office to find out if you qualify for a tax rebate. You can also visit the "Tax Resource Center" on my website, [www.giffords.house.gov](http://www.giffords.house.gov).

Sincerely

*Gabrielle Giffords*

Gabrielle Giffords  
Member of Congress

**"It was a pleasure to work in a bipartisan spirit with House and Senate leaders to act quickly to support our economy and create jobs this year. Our cooperative effort demonstrates to the nation and the world that we can come together to address the needs of the American people."**

– Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, February 7, 2008



***“I am proud of the bipartisan efforts to improve our economy but I know there is much more that needs to be done.”*** – Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords

**Q. Who gets tax rebates?**

Most families are eligible, including those earning over \$3,000 in wages, or receiving at least \$3,000 in Social Security or veterans’ disability benefits. Tax relief begins to phase out for single people with incomes above \$75,000 and joint filers above \$150,000. A valid Social Security number is required to qualify for the basic credit and the qualifying child credit.

**Q. What about seniors and disabled veterans?**

Social Security benefits, veterans’ disability benefits and some pensions will be counted as earned income when determining eligibility for rebate checks. A senior or veteran with \$3,000 of Social Security to veterans’ disability income will receive a maximum rebate of \$300.

**Q. How much will my rebate be?**

Rebates will vary based on income and the number of children in the household, but payments could be up to \$600 for single filers and \$1,200 for joint filers. There is an additional \$300 credit per dependent child under the age of 17. The average Arizona household will see a rebate of \$880, slightly higher than the national average of \$850.

**Q. What measures are included to help my small business?**

The bill includes tax incentives to encourage small businesses investment in equipment. Previously, businesses could write off up to \$125,000 from their taxable income in capital purchases. Now that write-off has been doubled to \$250,000 for 2008 only.

\* For more information and additional tax rebate examples, please visit the **“Tax Resource Center”** on my website, [www.giffords.house.gov](http://www.giffords.house.gov).



Congresswoman Giffords listens to constituents’ concerns at a “Congress on Your Corner” event in the district.

**How do I get my tax rebate?**

**You must file a federal income tax return for 2007 to get your tax rebate.** Even if you are not

otherwise required to file a tax return, you must file a return to receive the tax rebate. Seniors and veterans should file a 1040A with the IRS.

**File Early:**

**The sooner you file, the sooner you will receive your rebate.**

The IRS expects to begin sending out rebates by May 2008.

**Important Tax Information**

**Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)**

The AMT was implemented in 1969 to prevent extremely wealthy Americans from avoiding taxes, but its formula did not adjust for inflation. Wages, however, have grown with inflation – altering the definition of “wealth” over the past 38 years. As a result, the AMT has increasingly threatened to add to the tax burden of millions of middle-class Americans. This year, alone, over 40,000 families in Southern Arizona were expected to be overtaxed. That was not Congress’ intent when it created the AMT and action was needed.

In December 2007, the House passed the **Tax Increase Prevention Act (H.R. 3996)**, with my support, and it was signed into law. This legislation fixed the AMT formula to make sure that millions of Americans would not be overtaxed this year.

The IRS has reprogrammed its systems for the new AMT law and middle-class taxpayers may now file their taxes. For a list of the updated AMT-related forms, please visit the **“Tax Resource Center”** on my website, [www.giffords.house.gov](http://www.giffords.house.gov).

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC)**

The EITC and CTC are tax credits that reduce or eliminate the taxes low-income working people pay. For example, families earning \$35,263 or less may be eligible for the EITC even if they don’t owe taxes in a given year. If the EITC credit exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who qualify. Annually, a family can claim up to \$4,400 through the EITC and \$1,000 per child through the CTC.

Many military families qualify for the EITC and Child Tax Credit. Last year Congress passed provisions from my **Combat Troops Tax Relief Act (H.R. 3808)** to ensure that up to 10,000 U.S. soldiers that have been on active duty remain eligible for these tax credits despite the fact that they have received combat pay.

**Child and Dependent Tax Care Credit**

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit is tax relief that helps families pay for child care in order to go to work or look for a job. The credit is also available to families that must pay for the care of a spouse or an adult dependent who is incapable of self-care. For the 2007 tax year, parents can claim as much as \$3,000 in dependent care expenses per child (up to \$6,000 for two or more children).

**Claim your Tax Credits – file your taxes!**

To receive the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit (CTC) or the Child and Dependent Care Credit, you must file your state and federal taxes. For the IRS, you must file either Form 1040 or 1040A. To find out if you qualify for the EITC, you can visit the **“Tax Resource Center”** on my website, [www.giffords.house.gov](http://www.giffords.house.gov). You can get free copies of the IRS forms at [www.irs.gov/formspubs](http://www.irs.gov/formspubs) or by calling the IRS at 1-800-TAX-FORM.

**Tax Filing Assistance**

There are several local and national resources to help you with your taxes this season.

**IRS Free File** – if you earned \$54,000 or less in 2007, you can use the IRS’s Free File service to prepare your taxes for free online at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**Arizona Free File Alliance** – you can also file your Arizona Individual Income Tax returns electronically for free at [www.azdor.gov](http://www.azdor.gov).

**The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program** offers free tax help to families who have children and make under \$40,000 and individuals who make under \$15,000. Volunteers receive training and certification from the IRS so they can help citizens complete their tax forms. Please see the listed VITA sites in our district below:

**City of Tucson Ward 3 Office**

1510 E. Grant Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85719  
W 5-8 pm; S 9 am-noon

**Eastside Adult Learning Center**

1630 S. Alvernon  
Tucson, AZ 85711  
M 5:30-8 pm; F 9 am-noon;  
CLOSED third week in March

**New Spirit Lutheran Church**

8701 E. Old Spanish Trail  
Tucson, AZ 85710

Th 3-6 pm; S 9 am-noon; Others by appointment at 731-3076

**Victory Assembly of God**

2549 W. Ruthrauff Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85705  
S 9 am-noon

**Catholic Community Service’s Pio Decimo Center**

3081 N Leslie Canyon Rd.  
Douglas, AZ 85607  
T, Th 3-6 pm; S 9 am-1 pm

For more information about additional VITA sites in Southern Arizona, please call the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona at (520) 903-9000

**Senior citizens age 50 and older can also get free tax help** from the AARP, sponsored by the IRS, at the locations below.

**Murphy-Wilmot Library**

530 N Wilmot Road  
Tucson, AZ  
M noon-4 pm; T 10 am-4 pm;  
Th 9 am-noon

**Nanini Library**

7300 N Shannon Road  
Tucson, AZ  
M, T 9 am-4 pm

**Udall Center**

7200 Tanque Verde Road  
Tucson, AZ  
M, W 9 am-2 pm

**Oro Valley Library**

1305 W Naranja Drive  
Oro Valley, AZ  
T 1 pm-4 pm

**Benson Senior Center**

705 W Union Street  
Benson, AZ  
Th noon-4 pm

Open only on Feb. 7, 14, 28,  
March 13, 27 and April 10

**Bisbee Senior Center**

300 Collins Rd  
Bisbee, AZ 85603  
S 9 am-1 pm

**Douglas Library**

560 10th Street  
Douglas, AZ 85607  
W 10 am-4 pm

**United Churches Village**

320 E Placita Naco Circle  
Nogales, AZ 85621  
F 6-9 pm; S 9 am-1 pm

**Oscar Yrun Community Center**

3020 E Tacoma St  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
M, T, W, Th, F noon-3:30 pm

**Useful IRS Phone Numbers**

**Order tax forms:**  
(800) 829-3676

**Individual tax questions:**  
(800) 829-1040

**Business-related tax questions:**  
(800) 829-4933

**TTY/TDD:**  
(800) 829-4059

**Earned Income Tax Credit Information:**  
(800) 352-3792

**If you have a more complicated tax issue call the Taxpayer Advocate Service:**  
(877) 777-4778

**Internal Revenue Service:**  
(800) 829-1040  
[www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)



Hundreds of Southern Arizonans attended Congresswoman Giffords’ Economic Forum at the New Spirit Lutheran Church in Tucson.

**Congresswoman Giffords’ Survey on the Economy**

Your feedback helps me represent you. Please fill out this questionnaire and mail it back to me. Thank you!

**Which ONE economic issue has the biggest impact on your family?**

- Health care costs
- The mortgage crisis
- Gas and utility prices
- College tuition affordability
- High taxes

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**What should be Congress’ TOP priority to strengthen the U.S. economy?**

- Reduce our \$9 trillion national debt
- Make health care more affordable
- End the costly war in Iraq
- Pass comprehensive immigration reform
- Invest in renewable energy industries that create “green jobs”

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**How will you use your tax rebate:**

- Make a big purchase I was putting off
- Save pretty much the whole thing
- Spend the money on bills and daily expenses
- Do a little of each with the rebate money

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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