



Dear Neighbors,

July opened with the passage of the Big Ugly Billionaire Bailout Bill and only got worse from there. Congressional Republicans, after passing a big giveaway to their billionaire donors proceeded to vote for a giveaway to Trump to enrich himself with his [crypto schemes](#). Meanwhile, the 12th District dealt with some devastating flooding as storms get more violent and more frequent.

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Trump Corruption World Tour

On this week's [Trump Corruption World Tour](#) we truly go international as the President and his sons use the force of America's reputation to enrich themselves while weakening US standing. In just one round trip, the Trump family announced plans for Trump Towers, golf courses, resorts and hotels all across the Middle East. These governments aren't investing in Trump properties for their reputation for terrible quality, rather, they're investing in influencing U.S. policy. When the president allows this kind of access, it undermines everything that the office is supposed to stand for - kicking the door wide open for bribes from the highest bidder.



Big Ugly Billionaire Bailout Bill

Earlier this month, Congressional Republicans [passed their Big Ugly Billionaire Bailout bill](#).

I am appalled at the cruelty on display during what should have been a week of reflection, celebration, and recommitment to our nation's pursuit of a more perfect union.



Republicans are making clear they have no interest in governing for the people who rely on us most. This bill threatens healthcare for seniors and children, strips food assistance from millions, slashes student loan protections, and undermines climate progress. At every single turn, it serves the wealthy and punishes everyone else.

Congress Sent Home Early to Hide Epstein Files

Instead of a minimum wage increase, or funding the government, or addressing climate change, 219 Republican politicians don't want to work this week so they can avoid the Epstein vote until after their vacation.

On July 21st, as Democrats and even a few Republicans began passing amendments to release the Epstein files, Speaker Johnson [sent Congress home early](#) to avoid voting on their release.

Crypto Bills

On July 17th, [I voted against a package of bills](#) that would have set up a dangerous lack of regulation of the crypto industry.

These bills are a scam to help President Trump cash in on his crypto dealings. Trump has been lobbying members of Congress to pass these laws to make himself and his family richer while he's President. Since launching his crypto ventures, President Trump and his family have gotten half a billion dollars richer off their schemes by selling access to the President.

A public office should never be for sale. And the American people should not have to compete with billionaires and corrupt foreign governments to have their voices heard. All the same lobbyists and corporate special interests who've crept into our political process now have an easy way to funnel unlimited amounts of cash directly to the President of the United States.

So whenever you see a new headline about Donald Trump's crypto ventures, remember this: It's just another way he's abusing the presidency for his own gain.

Famine in Gaza

The images and reports of famine in Gaza are heartwrenching. The death of any child from hunger is an indictment of the systems and leaders that allowed it to happen, but the aid distribution system in Gaza is failing by design. Aid trucks are stuck at the border while people in Gaza are dying without food, clean water, medicine, or fuel. [Aid groups report](#) that over 90,000 women and children are suffering from severe malnutrition, with a third of the population going days without food. The Israeli military has reduced the number of humanitarian access sites from 400 to just four. Meanwhile, since May, over 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces while trying to reach aid.

The use of starvation as a weapon is [a war crime](#) under International law. Still, Prime Minister Netanyahu has proven he has no regard for human life or the law, and so has no issue deploying such barbaric tactics in the continued ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. The results of his evil campaign are undeniable and heartbreaking.

There must be an immediate end to the blockade, the complete restoration of humanitarian access, and the enforcement of a ceasefire. Every day without these steps costs lives. No government should be allowed to use food as a tool of war, and no government, especially ours, should reserve the privilege to look away.

Public Housing Fire Safety Act

This month, I introduced the [Public Housing Fire Safety Act](#). This bipartisan bill provides critical funding for public housing authorities to install fire sprinkler systems in older government-owned high-rise buildings. The legislation addresses a growing public safety issue by helping protect vulnerable residents in buildings constructed before modern fire safety requirements.

For families living in aging public housing, especially those built prior to the 1992 Federal Fire Safety Act. The lack of basic sprinklers drastically reduces fatalities and injuries; thousands of government-owned buildings across the country, including many

in Florida and New Jersey, remain unsprinklered decades later.

The growing frequency of climate-driven disasters like wildfires has only magnified the need to act. As this country faces emergency after emergency, it's our responsibility to mitigate and provide solutions so the American people aren't suffering. By ensuring our citizens living in public housing have the most basic fire safety measures, they become the priority. The added benefit that it will help save the lives of our nation's bravest makes this a no-brainer.

Flooding in the 12th District

Three storms have hammered the district in as many weeks. The towns of Plainfield, North Plainfield, Middlesex Borough, and Dunellen have [been especially hard hit](#).

The impacts of climate change are here. The consequences of polluters releasing carbon dioxide into our atmosphere can be seen here in Plainfield and around the state. From flooding in North Jersey, powerful thunderstorms in Central Jersey and tornadoes in South Jersey, we are seeing what happens when we allow polluters to write our environmental policy.

It is a disgrace that at this moment, the President and Congressional Republicans are proposing massive cuts to NOAA, FEMA, and the National Weather Service as storms grow in strength and frequency.

Republicans in DC are trying to cut NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including the elimination of the Princeton Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab which studies our climate in order to better predict extreme weather events. At FEMA, they're proposing to underfund local emergency management grants, emergency food and shelter and the National Flood Mapping Program. In New Jersey, we look out for our neighbors. It's time our elected representatives do the same.



In the wake of deadly back-to-back storms in Plainfield, my staff, local officials, and climate advocates gathered Tuesday afternoon outside City Hall to demand the funding of NOAA, FEMA and the National Weather Service and swift passage of the New Jersey Climate Superfund Act, which would make major fossil fuel companies pay their share for climate-related damages in New Jersey.. The event featured Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp, State Senator John McKeon — the bill's prime sponsor — and other local leaders calling on Governor Murphy and the legislature to hold Big Oil accountable for climate damages that have devastated New Jersey communities.

Passport Clinic

On Wednesday, my office held a passport clinic at the East Brunswick Library. We were able to help 58 people renew and apply for new passports and even get their passport photos taken.

If you need help with your passport application but weren't able to attend please reach out to my District Office at 908-883-0026 or visit

https://watsoncoleman.house.gov/services/help-with-a-federal-agency_



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