

Congressman BRAD SHERMAN Help with Federal Agencies

TAX REBATE CHECKS



For information on whether you are entitled to a tax rebate check, please visit our website: www.BradSherman.house.gov or call us at (818) 501-9200. If you believe you are entitled to a rebate check, but haven't received it, call us.

SENIORS



We can help determine which health care services are eligible for Medicare coverage and assist with reimbursement difficulties. We can also help resolve problems with the Social Security Administration and the VA.



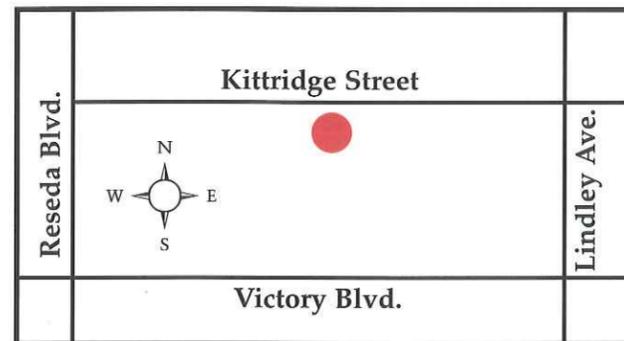
Congressman Sherman and his Valley office are available to help you solve problems with the federal government. We can help with passports, visas, Washington tours, Veterans benefits—just about anything involving the federal government. We have helped thousands of Valley residents.

JUST CALL US. (818) 501-9200

Congressman BRAD SHERMAN TOWN HALL MEETING

Please come to Congressman Brad Sherman's air conditioned Town Hall Meeting. This will be a chance for Congressman Sherman to hear from you about the mortgage crisis, gas prices, the economy, foreign policy, and other issues facing Congress. The Congressman's constituent services staff will be available to help you deal with federal agencies. The event, refreshments and parking are free.

Saturday, August 23, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
Reseda High School
18230 Kittridge Street



Congressman Brad Sherman
5000 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 420
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403
(818) 501-9200

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M.C.
PRSRT-STD

Official Business

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CONGRESSMAN
BRAD SHERMAN

REPORT TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN'S
TOWN HALL MEETING

SATURDAY AUG. 23

SEE BACK FOR DETAILS

CONGRESSMAN BRAD SHERMAN. WORKING FOR VALLEY FAMILIES.

THE HOME MORTGAGE CRISIS

Congressman Sherman helped write the *Housing Recovery Act of 2008*, which was signed into law last month.



Foreclosure not only hurts homeowners and communities, it involves substantial losses for lenders. Under the Act, the lender will replace the mortgage with a new, 30 year fixed-rate mortgage at an affordable rate, and reduce

the amount owed down to 90% of the home's current value. In return, the Federal Housing Administration will guarantee the lender that the new mortgage will be repaid.

Future Loans – Preventing a Recurrence

The Act requires that future loans be made only on terms the borrower can afford to repay. It prohibits no-doc loans and teaser-rate qualification. It also prohibits steering a borrower who qualifies for a prime loan into a more costly sub-prime loan.

Raising the Conforming Loan Limit

"Conforming" loans help middle-class families because they have interest rates about 1% less than non-conforming (jumbo) loans. Until a few months ago, the conforming loan limit was \$417,000, far below the cost of most Valley homes. The Act permanently increases the conforming loan limit to \$625,500 for the Valley and other high cost areas.

Earlier this year, Congressman Sherman successfully fought for a temporary increase in the conforming loan limit to \$729,750 for 2008. He is now working to make that higher limit permanent for high cost areas.



PROTECTING MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Last month, President Bush vetoed the *Medicare Improvements Act* designed to prevent a 10.6% pay cut to doctors who treat Medicare patients, and to improve coverage of preventive health care. Sherman helped to override the President's veto, and pass this bill into law.

Congressman Sherman has consistently earned a 100% rating from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.



PROTECTING CONSUMERS

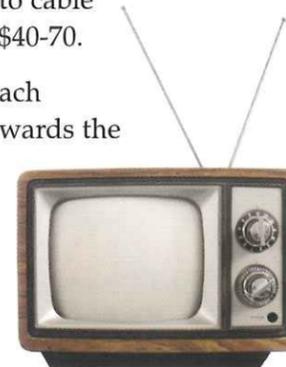
Congressman Sherman worked to pass H.R. 4040 to require tough lead-free standards on products for children and tough safety standards for nursery products.

Congressman Sherman cosponsored the *Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights Act* to protect consumers from unfair practices that increase interest rates.

DIGITAL TV TRANSITION - COUPONS FOR CONVERTERS

Next February, TV broadcasts will switch to digital. Older "analog" televisions will no longer be able to receive transmissions unless they are hooked-up to a converter box, or to cable or satellite. Converter boxes cost between \$40-70.

The Department of Commerce will issue each household up to two \$40 coupons to go towards the purchase of converter boxes. Call the Commerce Department at 1-888-DTV-2009 to request coupons, or visit DTV2009.com. Call Congressman Sherman's office at 818-501-9200 if you have questions.



GAS PRICES AND ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Congressman Sherman has been working to lower gas prices and make America less dependent on foreign oil. He helped introduce and pass the *Energy Independence and Security Act* to increase the fuel economy standards for new vehicles. Sherman also helped introduce and pass legislation to temporarily stop buying oil to fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help push down oil prices. Congressman Sherman voted for the *Energy Markets Emergency Act* to curb speculation in energy futures markets.



VALLEY TRANSPORTATION

Congressman Sherman has helped secure millions for new lanes on the 5 and 405 Freeways to build the Orange Line and to resurface many Valley streets.

This summer, an average of 25,500 passengers a day boarded the Orange Line at stops along the 14-mile bus route from Warner Center to North Hollywood. Plans are underway to extend the route to the Chatsworth

Metrolink Station, and Sherman is working to expedite construction. Using the Orange Line is a good alternative to \$4.50 gasoline.

