



CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN

VISIT MY WEBSITE: COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Working for the 9th District

Over the last eight years, I've worked tirelessly with the Obama Administration to bring hundreds of millions of federal dollars back home and on issues important to Memphians to improve our local economy, create jobs in Memphis, prevent crime, revitalize our neighborhoods, reform our criminal justice system, improve our care for veterans and ensure affordable health insurance for all. During my 10 years in Congress, I have served on the **House Judiciary Committee** as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, the **House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** and the **Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe**, as well as the House-Senate Highway Bill Conference Committee and the House-Senate Opioids Conference Committee. It has been an honor and a privilege serving the Ninth District in Congress, and I look forward to working with the new administration to continue these efforts.



Congressman Cohen discusses civil rights issues and commutations with President Obama

Bringing Federal Dollars Back to Memphis

Revitalizing Downtown Memphis is vital to our city's economic growth. In October, the **Big River Crossing** pedestrian and bike path across the historic Harahan Bridge opened to the public. In 2012, I was proud to work with then-Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to help secure the nearly **\$15 million federal TIGER grant** to help fund this project. Big River Crossing will spark economic growth in Downtown Memphis, create jobs, and increase tourism and livability in the South Main Historic District. Last year, Memphis received a **\$30 million Choice Neighborhood Grant** from HUD to redevelop Foote Homes in South Memphis by investing in schools, public transportation, and job creation. Memphis' selection as a Choice Neighborhood is the result of several years of my working closely with the City of Memphis and HUD Secretary Julian Castro. This year, I helped secure a \$1.4 million federal grant to keep the first and only **Minority Business Center**, which I helped bring to Memphis in 2012, open for another five years and a \$60 million flooding disaster recovery and prevention grant for Shelby County.

Fighting for Justice

Protecting civil rights has always been the central focus of my career as civil rights are central to our most dearly held belief of equality in our lives, our government and our nation. Fighting for **criminal justice reform**, ending the **failed war on drugs**, combatting **police use of excessive force** and **restoring voting rights** have been several of my legislative priorities as a Member of Congress. The President has commuted the prison sentences of more than 1,000 people who would have already completed their prison

sentences under today's laws, something I have urged the President to do for many years. In his closing days in office, I hope the President takes steps to **commute more sentences**, specifically for those serving time for marijuana-related convictions. Medical marijuana is now legal in 28 states as well as the District of Columbia, and more than 63 million Americans live in states that have now approved recreational marijuana. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. so rightly noted, "Justice too long delayed is justice denied."

Ensuring Safe and Affordable Housing

This year, I introduced the bipartisan **Housing Accountability Act** to hold property owners of low-income housing accountable for poor living conditions. This bill came in the wake of local and federal investigations that found deplorable living conditions at several federally subsidized-housing properties owned by the Global Ministries Foundation (GMF) in Memphis and around the country. By surveying tenants directly on property conditions, residents can report any issues directly to HUD without fear of reprisal from owners and managers who have been known to threaten to evict those who try to complain. This is not a partisan issue. No one should be allowed to live in such deplorable conditions.

Preventing Gun Violence

Preventing crime and gun violence in Memphis and around the country is a top priority of mine in Congress. In June, in the wake of the tragic shooting at an Orlando nightclub, I was proud to have been one of the original 15 members of Congress to join **civil rights icon Representative John Lewis (D-GA)** in demanding that House Speaker Paul Ryan schedule a vote on legislation to expand background checks and legislation to prevent gun sales to suspected terrorists. As part of the National Day of Action on gun violence, constituents, local gun violence prevention groups and city leaders gathered in my District Office for a discussion on what more can be done on a federal level to prevent further instances of gun violence in Memphis. It was important to hear from Memphians directly impacted by gun violence about their views on the debate in Congress and to exchange ideas on how to end the gun violence epidemic in our city.



Congressman Cohen hosts constituents, local gun violence prevention groups and city leaders in his District Office for a discussion on gun violence prevention

Recommending Memphians for Federal Positions

Last year, the President heeded my recommendation and nominated current **U.S. Attorney Ed Stanton III** to become U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee. U.S. Attorney Stanton's nomination was unanimously approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee in October of 2015, but Senate majority leadership refused to approve any more judicial nominations from the President, including Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland. U.S. Attorney Stanton was **next in line** to be approved by the Senate, but since the 114th Congress has ended, his nomination expired. I am still proud to have recommended numerous other Memphians to the President who have been confirmed for federal positions including:

- Judge Sheri Lipman (2014) U.S. District Court Judge, Western District of Tennessee
- Ron Walter (2014) Board of Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority
- V. Lynn Evans (2013) Board of Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority
- Judge John Fowlkes (2012) U.S. District Court Judge, Western District of Tennessee
- Judge Bernice Donald (2011) U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit
- Ed Stanton III (2010) U.S. Attorney, Western District of Tennessee
- Bishop William Graves (2008) Board of Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority



Congressman Cohen hosts regular "Congress on your Corner" office hours to assist constituents with navigating federal agencies

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Call my District office at (901) 544-4131 regarding

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Small Business Administration Loans and Services
FHA, VA Home Loans | Civil Rights Complaints (EEOC)
Federal Grants | Workers' Compensation Claims
Civil Service Pensions and Benefits
Railroad Retirement Benefits
Visas & Passports | IRS Problems
Social Security & Medicare Benefits

Veterans

We can help you with denied veterans benefits such as pensions and medical care.

Seniors, Social Security, and Medicare

We can ask the U.S. Treasury to replace lost Social Security checks, inquire on your behalf regarding Medicare reimbursement disputes and check the status of appealed decisions regarding retirement or Social Security benefits.

Service Academy Nominations

Each year, I recommend high school graduates between the ages of 17 and 23 and who live in the 9th Congressional District for admission to the United States service academies (Army, Navy, Air Force and Merchant Marines).

The recommendations are non-political and competitive and those interested should begin the application process during their junior year of high school.

Student Information

My District and Washington, D.C. offices offer full or part-time internships that utilize academic lessons in a real work environment and may qualify for college credit. We also provide information on federal student loan programs like Pell Grants and Stafford Loans. Further information is available regarding the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program, which includes the HOPE Scholarship, the Aspire Awards, the HOPE Access Grant, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship and the Wilder-Naifeh Technical Skills Grant programs.



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Get Covered!

The **Healthcare.gov** insurance marketplace is now open for plan shopping and comparisons. If you have insurance coverage through the **Healthcare.gov** marketplace, your plan will be automatically renewed for 2017, but you should still visit **Healthcare.gov** to update your information, ensure you receive the full tax credit to which you are entitled, and review new options as other insurance plans that better fit your needs may now be available. Please remember the open enrollment period closes on January 31st. If you need help enrolling in coverage or have questions about plan options, you can call the **Healthcare.gov** hotline at (800) 318-2569 or visit their website at <https://www.healthcare.gov>.

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Steve Cohen M.C.
Presorted Standard

CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN



Winter 2016/2017

District Issues Meeting

Please Join Me!

Monday, January 9, 2017 9am-11am

The Clifford Davis/Odell Horton Federal Building
167 North Main Street, Suite 369

RSVP (901) 544-4131

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