



Congressman Joe Pitts' Record of Bipartisanship

Congressman Pitts' first priority is to represent his constituents and will always vote "no" in defense of the interests and values of his district. However, he believes bipartisanship is essential to effective government. Here are some highlights from his record of bipartisanship.

- On March 15, 2011, voted against the Republican leadership's stopgap spending bill (H.J. Res. 48) because it merely "kicked the can" down the road, without resolving important policy issues or significantly reducing spending.
- Two days after Democrats took over the House in 2007, Rep. Pitts announced a list of bills he wanted to work with Democrats on. Two of the five are now law, and he continues to work with Democrats on the other three.
- Worked with President Clinton to balance four budgets in a row (the only four of the last half century).
- Opposed President Bush's signature initiative (No Child Left Behind), because he believed it was bad for both teachers and students.
- Led a bipartisan effort with Rep. Tim Holden (D, PA) and others to allow RRTA, BARTA, and other small transit authorities to make their own decisions in allocating federal funding. This successful effort kept fares down.
- Worked with Rep. Ed Markey (D, MA) to stop wireless phone companies from publicly listing phone numbers.
- Co-authored a health reform bill with Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D, NY) that would help small businesses afford to insure their workers.
- Co-authored a bill with Rep. Bart Gordon (D, TN) that would increase the availability of optometric care for the mostly low-income clients of community health centers.
- Sponsored the Family Farm Preservation Act, supported by Reps. Tammy Baldwin (D, WI) and Joe Courtney (D, CT) to help farm families keep their land.
- Co-chairs the Land Preservation Caucus with Rep. Chris Murphy (D, CT).
- Passed bipartisan Food and Drug Administration reforms of drug and medical device review programs through the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee in the 112th Congress.

In the 113th Congress, Congressman Pitts is working with Democrats on several important measures:

- [White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River Expansion Act of 2013](#) – This bill will protect additional segments of the White Clay Creek to the protections of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Delaware Democrat John Carney supports the bill and Democratic Senator Chris Coons is the sponsor of the bill in the Senate.

- [The Sugar Reform Act of 2013](#) – This bipartisan, bicameral bill would end corporate welfare for the sugar industry, lowering food prices for all Americans. Chicago Democrat Danny Davis is working with Congressman Pitts in the House. The Senate sponsors are Jeanne Shaheen (D, NH) and Mark Kirk (R, IL).
- [The Children's Hospital Graduate Medicare Education Support Restoration Act of 2013](#) – Rep. Pitts is teaming up with Rep. Frank Pallone (R, NJ) on this bill to address the nationwide shortage of qualified pediatricians by reauthorizing training programs at top-flight institutions like Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.
- [Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2013](#) – Working with Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D, IL), Rep. Ed Whitfield (R, KY), and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D, CA) in the House and Sen. Mark Udall (D, NM) in the Senate, Rep. Pitts introduced legislation to ban the dangerous doping of racehorses.
- [Medicare Reform](#) – Rep. Pitts is leading the Health Subcommittee to pass legislation to repeal and replace the Sustainable Growth Rate, a Medicare payment formula that could reduce the number of doctors who participate in the program if it ever goes into effect.

Here is a list of more than 50 important Democratic measures Congressman Pitts voted for during four years of Democratic control of the House (2007 – 2010).

Budget and Spending

1. [Supplemental Appropriations, FY 2009](#) - The House approved this bill to provide funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, security improvements in Pakistan and the national pandemic flu response.
2. [Making continuing appropriations for FY2008](#) - The House passed this continuing resolution that funded government operations at current levels while Congress continued to work on the new spending bills.
3. [Supplemental Appropriations bill, FY 2007, Amendment No. 2](#) - The House approved the \$103 billion portion of the supplemental spending bill that funds military operations in Iraq.

Conservation and Agriculture

4. [Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network Continuing Authorization Act](#) - The House approved this bill that would permanently authorize funding for the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network.
5. [Wild Horse Protection Bill](#) - This bill would prohibit the Bureau of Land Management from selling wild horses or burros to be slaughtered for commercial use.

Defense

6. [Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010](#) - The House approved this defense spending bill.
7. [Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010](#) - The House approved this bill that authorizes \$10 billion for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2010.

8. [Improving America's Security Act of 2007](#) - The House passed this bill which would implement recommendations from the 9/11 Commission.
9. [Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010](#) - The House approved this \$636.3 billion bill funding the Department of Defense.
10. [Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010](#) - The House passed this bill to fund the Department of Homeland Security for Fiscal Year 2010.
11. [Department of Defense Authorization, FY 2010](#) - The House approved this bill to authorize funding for military activities and prescribe military personnel strengths in Fiscal Year 2010.
12. [National Defense Authorization Act](#) - The House passed this bill authorizing Defense Department spending for 2008.
13. [Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for FY2009](#) - The House authorized \$600 billion in defense appropriations for fiscal year 2009.
14. [Defense Appropriations Act, FY 2008](#) - The House passed this appropriations bill for the Department of Defense.
15. [Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act](#) - This bill would authorize programs, advisory groups and spending to improve security at U.S. airports and rail systems. It also prohibits the TSA from using whole-body imaging machines at primary security checkpoints of airports.

Education

16. [Student Loan Sunshine Act](#) - The House passed this bill aimed at introducing transparency into dealings between private student loan lenders and colleges.
17. [Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act](#) - The House agreed with the Senate's amendments to this bill intended to ensure the availability of low interest student loans.
18. [College Student Relief Act](#) - This House bill is intended to make college education more affordable by gradually reducing the interest rate on need-based student loans issued after July 2007 from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent.
19. [Improving Head Start Act](#) - This House bill boosts funding for the Head Start program.

Energy and the Environment

20. [To broaden access to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund](#) - This legislation would allow the Obama Administration to withdraw more money from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund in order to better respond to the Gulf of Mexico oil accident.
21. [Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act](#) - This House bill is intended to encourage the use of alternative fuels.
22. [Advanced Vehicle Technology Act](#) - The House passed this bill that would permit the Energy Department to spend \$200 million per year more than it currently spends on programs for the research, development, demonstration and commercial application of new vehicle technologies.
23. [Strategic Petroleum Reserve Fill Suspension and Consumer Protection Act](#) - The House passed this bill that would suspend deposits into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve as long as the price of crude oil remains above \$75 per barrel.

Ethics and Good Government

24. [Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007](#) - The House passed this bill that would provide greater transparency in the legislative process.
25. [Ethics Committee Investigations](#) - The House adopted this resolution directing the Ethics Committee to begin an investigation within 30 days of a lawmaker's indictment.
26. [Lobbying Transparency Act](#) - This bill required lobbyists to disclose the names of donors when they "bundle" campaign contributions to Members of Congress.
27. [Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007](#) - This House bill instituted new lobbying reporting requirements and increase penalties for violating lobbying rules.
28. [Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act](#) - The House passed this fraud enforcement bill with an amendment to create a commission to investigate the causes of the financial crisis.
29. [War Profiteering Prevention Act](#) - The House passed this bill that would criminalize "war profiteering."
30. [IMPROVE Acquisition Act of 2010](#) - The House passed this measure that required the Defense Department to develop a system with specific metrics, including targeted schedules and cost objectives, for the acquisition of weapons, information technology and services. It also directed Defense Department officials to set up a system by 2017 to reward organizations that meet objectives and penalize those that do not.

Foreign Affairs

31. [Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act](#) - The House passed this bill imposing sanctions on multinational companies that deal with Iran's petroleum industry.
32. [Protect America Act](#) - The House passed this bill to temporarily expand the executive branch's authority to monitor suspected foreign terrorists' communications when those communications pass through the U.S.
33. [United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement](#) - This bill is intended to strengthen trade ties with Peru.
34. [Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act](#) - This \$6.4 billion Afghanistan aid bill would cut off funds to local Afghani governments with ties to criminals, drug dealers or terrorists.

Healthcare

35. [Veto Override; Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act](#) - The House overrode the President's veto of a bill that cancels a scheduled 10.6 percent cut in Medicare physician payments.
36. [SCHIP Extension Act](#) - The House passed this bill to extend funding of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in its current form until March 2009.

Jobs and Employment

37. [SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act](#) - The House voted to reauthorize through 2010 the Small Business and Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs.
38. [Recovery Rebates and Economic Stimulus for the American People Act of 2008](#) - This bipartisan economic stimulus package cut taxes for millions of Americans and passed the House with overwhelming support.
39. [Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act](#) - The House voted to reauthorize two federal programs that provide research and development grants to entrepreneurs.
40. [Small Business Financing and Investment Act of 2009](#) - This House bill would reauthorize several Small Business Administration loan programs.
41. [Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007](#) - The House passed this bill to give the Federal Housing Administration the authority to assist struggling homeowners in making their mortgage payments.

Life and Bioethics

42. [Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008](#) - The House agreed to this measure that would prohibit employers and health insurance issuers from discriminating against individuals on the basis of their genetic information.
43. [Stupak-Pitts Amendment](#) - The House passed this amendment to “Obamacare” that would bar the government from paying for abortion.

Tax Relief

44. [Homebuyer Assistance and Improvement Act](#) - The House passed this legislation to extend the required closing date for the first-time homebuyer tax credit.
45. [Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009](#) - The House gave final approval to this bill extending unemployment benefits and tax credits for some homebuyers and businesses.
46. [Internet Tax Freedom Act](#) - The House passed legislation that would extend the moratorium on Internet access taxes through November 2011.
47. [Temporary Tax Relief Act of 2007](#) - The House voted in favor of this bill to fix the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) for one year.
48. [Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007](#) - The House passed this bill that is intended to provide tax relief to the increasing amount of people who have lost their homes due to foreclosure.
49. [Small Business Tax Relief Act](#) - The House approved this \$1.3 billion package of small business tax breaks.

Transportation

50. [National Highway Bridge Reconstruction and Inspection Act](#) - The House passed this bill that would help states and the Federal Highway Administration create a uniform inspection system for bridges and highways.

51. [Water Resources Development Act](#) - The House passed this \$15 billion bill funding improvements to the nation's waterways.

Veterans Issues

52. [Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2010](#) - The House passed this \$133.7 billion bill funding veterans programs and military construction.
53. [FHA Reform Act of 2010](#) - The House passed this bill that would allow the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to raise premiums for mortgage insurance, with the intent of boosting its dwindling reserves.
54. [Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriation, FY 2009](#) - The House passed this \$72.7 billion bill funding military construction and veteran care programs.

Miscellaneous

55. [Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009](#) - The House approved this legislation that would reauthorize FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters grants and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program through FY2014.