

20
19

Year in Review



US CONGRESSMAN

TJ COX

CALIFORNIA'S 21ST DISTRICT



Coming to Washington one year ago, as an engineer and small businessman – not a politician – Representative TJ Cox hasn’t wasted a second in leading on the biggest issues facing Central Valley families.

Representative Cox has worked with anyone and everyone—Republican, Independent & Democrat—to deliver for the Central Valley, not special interest donors.

That’s why, in 2019, he had a bill to help family farms signed by President Trump, worked directly with communities across the Central Valley to craft a bill that directly targets the challenges small communities face in delivering clean drinking water, has introduced bills and secured appropriations funding to fix Central Valley waterways like the Delta-Mendota and Friant-Kern canals, helped lead and pass the first bill to tackle the farm labor shortage to make it out of the House in years, among other achievements.

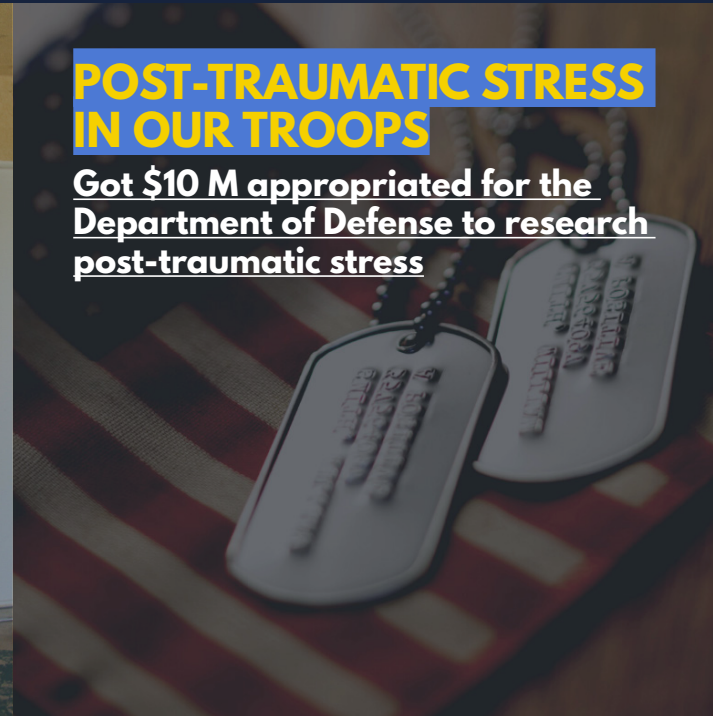
This report will lay out some of what Rep. Cox has done to prioritize the Central Valley, in legislative wins, ways he has kept this administration accountable, and how Rep. Cox’s constituent services team has helped constituents cut through Washington’s red tape.

TJ'S TOP NINE



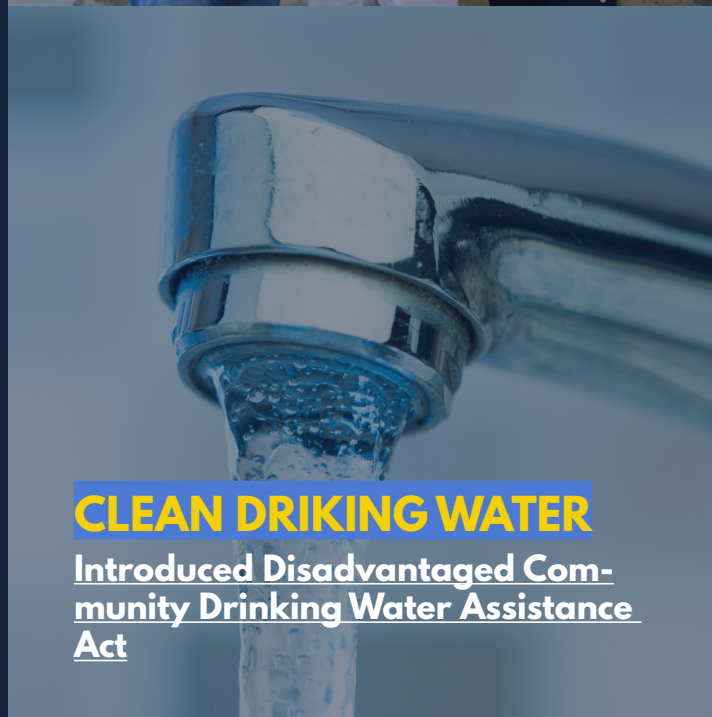
FAMILY FARMS

President Trump signed Rep. Cox's Family Farmer Relief Act



POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS IN OUR TROOPS

Got \$10 M appropriated for the Department of Defense to research post-traumatic stress



CLEAN DRINKING WATER

Introduced Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Assistance Act



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduced bill to fix Friant-Kern Canal



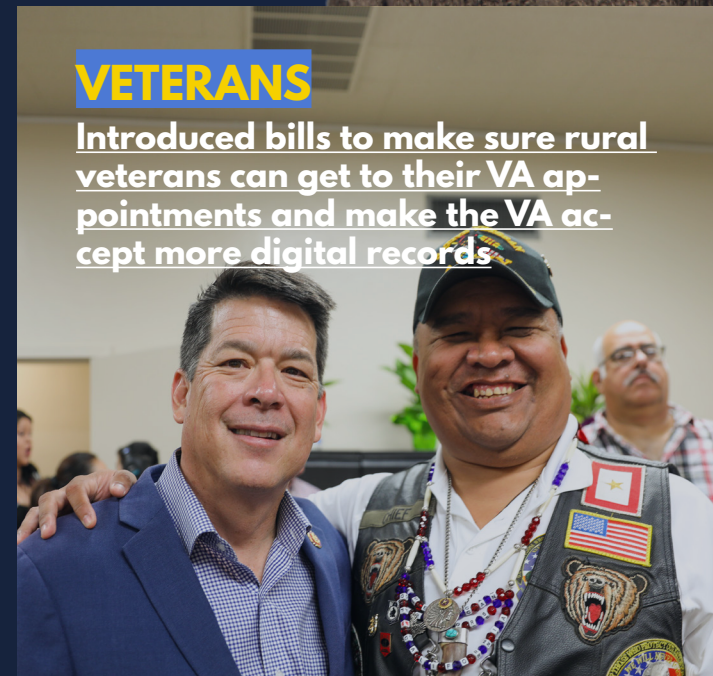
VALLEY FEVER

Introduced End Valley Fever Now Act



FARM LABOR

Helped lead and pass a first-of-its-kind bipartisan agriculture-labor bill that benefits both farmers and farmworkers



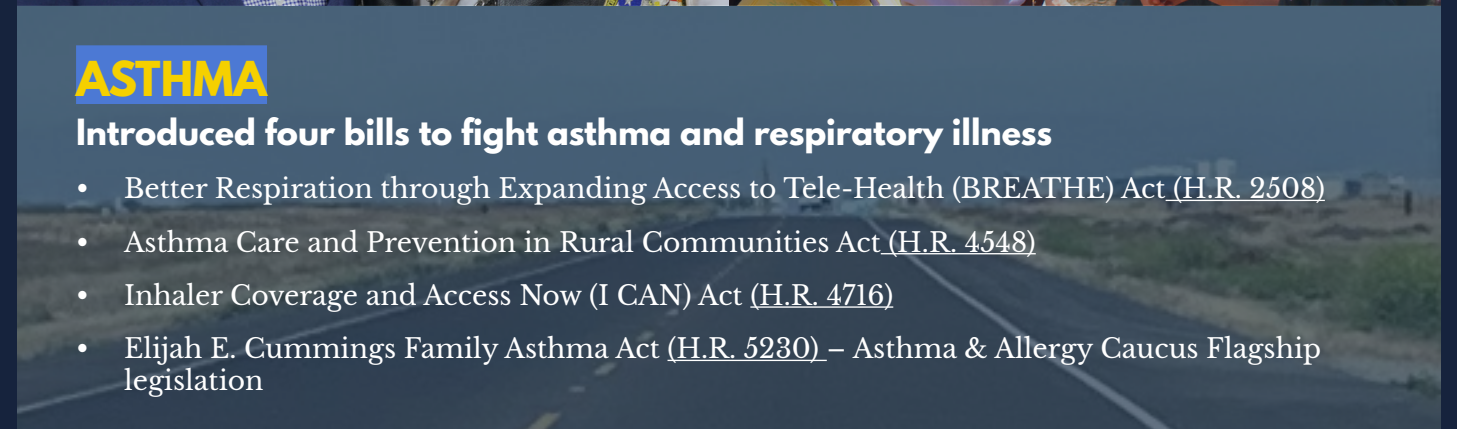
VETERANS

Introduced bills to make sure rural veterans can get to their VA appointments and make the VA accept more digital records



EDUCATION

Introduced legislation to invest \$1 billion in facilities for federally impacted schools, like Akers Elementary school at NAS Lemoore
*also secured additional \$\$ for Impact Aid in FY20



ASTHMA

Introduced four bills to fight asthma and respiratory illness

- Better Respiration through Expanding Access to Tele-Health (BREATHE) Act (H.R. 2508)
- Asthma Care and Prevention in Rural Communities Act (H.R. 4548)
- Inhaler Coverage and Access Now (I CAN) Act (H.R. 4716)
- Elijah E. Cummings Family Asthma Act (H.R. 5230) – Asthma & Allergy Caucus Flagship legislation

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

13
Bills Introduced

156
Events in District

1st
Latino Inspire Awards

104
Constituent Cases Closed

\$445k
Returned to Constituents

4
Town Halls

2,171
Constituent Mail Responses

1000+
Books Donated to 27 different organizations

365
Bills Cosponsored

Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Assistance Act

In December, Rep. Cox held a press conference in Parlier to announce a new bill that brings clean drinking water to California's 21st Congressional District and small communities across the country, many of which are currently ineligible for existing funding programs



US CONGRESSMAN
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Disadvantaged Community Drinking Water Assistance Act

PROGRAM
Over \$100 MILLION in grants for construction, applications, technical assistance, and operations & maintenance

ELIGIBLE COMMUNITIES
Population < 60,000
Median household income < \$64,800

GRANT PRIORITIES
Disadvantaged communities with safe drinking water violations, water shortage, dry or contaminated domestic wells, consolidation projects

Drinking Water Challenges in CA-21

	Monthly Water Bills	Huron	Delano	Wasco
		\$119	\$65	\$85
Pollutants		1,2,3 - TCP, nitrates, arsenic, and others		

Diabetes Report

In November, Rep. Cox held a press conference in Bakersfield to release a new Congressional report on the out-of-control costs of insulin to treat diabetes in California's 21st Congressional District. Joining him was Vicki Jones, a local patient advocate from Lemoore, CA, and health experts from Dignity Health Memorial Hospital - Bakersfield, including Endocrinologist Dr. Harshit Shah.



US CONGRESSMAN
TJ COX
CALIFORNIA'S 21ST DISTRICT

DIABETES IN CA-21

A NEW CONGRESSIONAL REPORT FROM

Families pay \$1,240 annually out-of-pocket for insulin.

14,000 seniors and Medicare beneficiaries are diagnosed with diabetes in CA-21

25% of patients with diabetes have rationed their insulin

Nationally, rationing has cost \$2 billion in avoidable expenditures

More than 30 million Americans, and over 25% of seniors, have diabetes.

Constituent Services



Congressman TJ Cox has opened offices in Selma and Bakersfield and our full-time staff of 7 hold frequent mobile office hours throughout the district. Our in-district team is dedicated to providing constituents with a large number of services.

The Congressman’s district team has had significant success, helping constituents obtain or keep over \$445,212.19 by expediting immigration cases, working with the Social Security Administration, the Veterans Affairs Administration, and other federal agencies to cut through red tape and get constituents the benefits they’ve earned.

These are just some of the services Rep. Cox’s Selma and Bakersfield offices can provide:

- Help with federal agencies such as: Veterans Affairs, Social Security Administration and Medicare Benefits, IRS, Immigration, Federal Workers’ Compensation, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, other federal agencies
- Service Academy Nominations, Veterans History Project, and Holiday Cards for Heroes
- Federal Grants and Small Business Assistance
- Surplus Books Program through the Library of Congress
- District Competitions: Art Competition, App Challenge
- Purchasing a Flag flown over the U.S. Capitol
- U.S. Capitol Tours

\$445,212.19

Returned to Constituents

Chona got an amazing job offer, but if her work authorization application wasn’t approved within a month of the job offer, she was in danger of losing it. Rep. Cox’s team pushed US Citizenship and Immigrations Services with an expedited inquiry, which helped get the work authorization application reviewed, processed, and approved.

“Ms. Virginia did not hesitate to accommodate us, and from the moment we spoke to her, we knew that she has been helping a lot of people of similar case as ours because she demonstrated her knowledge on the process. To say that we are awed on her quick response, and enthusiasm to help us is an understatement.” – Chona, Lemoore



Many rural veterans have trouble accessing routine care. Rep. Cox pushed the VA to cover William visiting a doctor in his own community.

“I used to have to drive 40+ miles and wait 60+ days to see a doctor. Then after contacting Rep. TJ Cox, I was assigned a ‘hometown’ doctor. Now I get all the help I need within days. Life is good! Thank you TJ Cox!” - William, Delano

Like any proud father, Roy wanted to see his son graduate from basic training, but an issue would stop him from stepping foot on the Air Force base in Texas. Rep. Cox’s team appealed directly to the base commander, who approved a temporary waiver that allowed Roy to attend the ceremony.



“My son Fernando since early age showed interest on joining the military. He is a very smart young man and we are so proud of him. Once again, my family and me forever will be grateful for your help.” - Roy, McFarland

A clerical error created problems for Jose with multiple agencies, including the Social Security Administration and the IRS. With a push from Rep. Cox’s team, his file was reviewed, and federal tax return was released.

“Ellos me resolvieron mi problema dandome un resultado en poco tiempo lo cual estoy muy agradecido lo cual yo les recomiendo a la ciudadanilla que si tienen algun problema ellos le pueden ayudar son muy profesionales. Muchas gracias.” - Jose, Bakersfield

LANDMARK 2019 LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE HOUSE

Lowering Rx Drug Prices

Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act

Bold, major legislation to strengthen the health and financial security of America's seniors and families by making sure Americans don't have to pay more for their medicines than what Big Pharma charges for the same drugs in other countries.

Improving and Passing the USMCA

Rep. Cox joined together with bipartisan group of colleagues, fought for and won a deal that strengthens vital markets for our farmers and ranchers and protects American jobs & the environment.

Protecting DREAMers & Farmworkers

The American Dream and Promise Act

Provides a pathway to permanent legal status for our nation's DREAMers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS), and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders.

Stopping Gun Violence

The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019

Closes dangerous gun show loophole and requires background checks for all gun sales. The vast majority of guns used in criminal acts are obtained without a background check.

Equal Pay for Equal Work

Paycheck Fairness Act

Makes it harder to discriminate against women and elders in pay and benefits.



Cleaning Up Government

For the People Act

Ends the influence of special interest and "dark" money in our elections, promotes national redistricting reform, and makes it easier for everyone to vote.

**And 275+ other BIPARTISAN
bills passed by the House that
Mitch McConnell refuses to let
the Senate consider**

Latino Inspire Awards

To honor the many exceptional people in the Central Valley Latino community who give selflessly to make their communities stronger, healthier, and more equitable, Rep. Cox hosted the **first Latino Inspire Awards** in October at Selma City Hall. State Senator Melissa Hurtado joined Rep. Cox in honoring 10 individuals and 3 organizations for their ongoing contributions to the Central Valley.



This first group of honorees include Valerie Gorospe, who is organizing and standing up for agricultural working conditions.

The honorees also include the Central Valley Scholars. Kerman native Michael Piña founded this organization with a group of friends in order to help equip students from historically underserved communities, especially LGBTQ+ students, with the tools they need to earn admission to competitive universities.

2019 Latino Inspire Award Honorees

- Flor Medina – Mendota, CA
- Magdalena Gomez- Parlier, CA
- Dino Perez – Mendota, CA
- Aidee Cardenas – Bakersfield, CA
- Valerie Gorospe- Earlimart, CA
- Reyna Olganuez – Bakersfield, CA
- Robert Isquierdo – Stratford, CA
- Abigail Solis- Earlimart, CA
- Alicia Jacobo – Kettleman City, CA
- Alvaro Preciado- Avenal, CA
- The U.F.W. Foundation
- The California Farmworker Foundation
- The Central Valley Scholars

2020 Budget Wins

In December, the House of Representatives passed a pair of key Fiscal Year 2020 funding bills (H.R. 1865 and H.R. 1158), also called “minibus” bills. Here is how the Central Valley benefitted.

- [Rep. TJ Cox Secures \\$134 Million for Water Storage, \\$20 Million for Conveyance, and Funding to Advance New Projects.](#) The bill funds \$20 million in new construction funding to repair critical Bureau of Reclamation canals where land subsidence has seriously impaired carrying capacity, such as on the Friant-Kern and Delta-Mendota Canals located in the Central Valley.
- [Rep. TJ Cox Helps Central Valley Get Fair Share of Federal Dollars.](#) This amendment updates the 30-year portion of the formula by updating 1980 Census data with more recent 2010 Census data to more accurately direct investment into communities that have been left behind, such as the Central Valley.
- [Rep. TJ Cox Secures Energy Tax Incentives to Strengthen The Valley Economy.](#) This bill will help Small businesses get tax credits extended, generating investment and creating jobs in our nation’s rural economies.
- [Rep. TJ Cox’s \\$10 Million for Post-Traumatic Stress Research In Our Troops Amendment Passes In Budget Bill.](#) This Amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2020 would tackle the crisis of post-traumatic stress among Americans who served our nation.
- [Rep. TJ Cox Delivers \\$8 Million Increase For Citrus Greening Research After Rep. Barbara Lee Visit.](#) This bill would secured funding for agriculture priorities that will help the Valley family farmers and ranchers of California’s 21st District from the devastating effects of Citrus Greening.
- [Rep. TJ Cox Secures Additional Investments In Asthma and Health Care.](#) The bill funds \$30 million for the National Asthma Control Program to help those with Asthma better control and treat their complex medical condition.

Health

Quality, affordable health care that addresses the unique health challenges our communities face should be accessible to everyone in the Central Valley.

Rep. TJ Cox, a member of the Congressional Asthma and Allergy Caucus, has introduced:

1. [Better Respiration through Expanding Access to Tele-Health \(BREATHE\) Act, to help respiratory therapists provide telehealth services to those with Asthma and COPD \(H.R. 2508\)](#)
 2. [Asthma Care and Prevention in Rural Communities Act, to help those in rural communities with Asthma get access to critical care and services \(H.R. 4548\)](#)
 3. [Inhaler Coverage and Access Now \(I CAN\) Act, to make inhaler medication more accessible for families with a high-deductible health plan \(H.R. 4716\)](#)
 4. [Elijah E. Cummings Family Asthma Act, which is the Asthma and Allergy Caucus flagship bill, that expands federal, state, and local efforts to improve care for individuals with asthma. \(H.R. 5230\)](#)
- [Rep. Cox secured \\$30 million for the National Asthma Control Program for fiscal year 2020, a \\$1 million increase. His efforts resulted in a \\$1 million funding increase. Increased funding for National Asthma Control Program was Rep. Cox’s number one request in LHHS appropriations and top five across all 12 spending bills.](#)
 - [Rep. Cox introduces Valley Fever Bill after Valley Fever Town Hall in Bakersfield.](#) In October, Congressman Cox hosted a Valley Fever Town Hall and heard from experts, patient advocates and families that have been impacted by valley fever. With stakeholder engagement, Congressman Cox introduced his bill, H.R. 5438, End Valley Fever Now Act, to increase awareness and education of valley fever, improve disease identification and diagnosis and remove barriers to increase access to clinical trials.

Health (cotd.)

- [Rep. TJ Cox introduced bold, bipartisan legislation to expand telehealth respiratory health services to patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.](#) This bipartisan Better Respiration through Expanded Access to Tele-Health (BREATHE) Act will designate a three-year pilot program allowing qualified Respiratory Therapists to serve as telehealth practitioners to deliver disease management services to Medicare patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- [Rep. TJ Cox passed an amendment to focus funds to help people from areas with high unemployment navigate the health care exchanges.](#) The bill itself restored funds Republicans cut in order to sabotage our healthcare system. This amendment added areas with high concentrations of unemployment to the list of areas targeted by the Marketing and Outreach Restoration to Empower Health Education Act of 2019.
- [Rep. TJ Cox passed an amendment that focuses funds to help people from areas with high unemployment navigate the health care exchanges. The bill itself restored funds Republicans cut in order to sabotage our healthcare system.](#) This amendment added areas with high concentrations of unemployment to the list of areas targeted by the Marketing and Outreach Restoration to Empower Health Education Act of 2019. (§ H. Amdt. 243 to H.R. 987)
- Rep. Cox also passed an amendment to the same bill that improves transparency and accountability in administration's collection and use of ACA user fees for outreach and enrollment activities. (§ H. Amdt. 242)
- [Rep. TJ Cox Releases Congressional Report on Diabetes in 21st District.](#) Rep. Cox commissioned a report to investigate the impact of high insulin cost on Central Valley families. The report found 1 out of 4 people have been forced to ration their insulin to save money.



Water & Natural Resources

The Valley needs more safe, sustainable water for its communities and family farms.

- [Rep. TJ Cox secured \\$134 million for water storage, \\$20 million for conveyance, and funding to advance new projects in the final spending bill signed by the President.](#)
- [Rep. TJ Cox successfully fought for increased investments in clean drinking water by winning a \\$245 million increase for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and a \\$262 million increase for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in the final spending bill signed by the President.](#)

Water & Natural Resources (cotd.)

- [Rep. TJ Cox secured funding to advance four important water storage projects in the Central Valley.](#) These include \$1.5 million for Del Puerto Reservoir, \$2.155 million for expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir, \$6 million for Sites Reservoir, and \$2.5 million for Friant-Kern Canal Capacity Correction. Funds will be used to complete project feasibility studies, which are important steps for moving these projects forward. When completed, these projects will benefit South of Delta water users by providing more storage capacity and greater operational flexibility for the Central Valley Project.
- [Rep. TJ Cox brought House Committee on Natural Resources Chair Raul Grijalva to the Central Valley to show him the need for increased water allocations and infrastructure for both clean drinking water and agriculture.](#)
- [Rep. TJ Cox successfully pushed the United States Bureau of Reclamation to properly allocate water resources to the Central Valley.](#) Congressman TJ Cox along with Congressman Jim Costa and Senator Dianne Feinstein sent multiple letters urging the US Bureau of Reclamation to re-evaluate precipitation values in order to assure water allocations to Central Valley communities reflect the most recent precipitation data. The US Bureau of Reclamation ultimately increased water allocations by 70% and 95% of their historical value to agricultural water service contractors and municipal and industrial contractors respectively thus increasing water access to rural communities.
- [Rep. TJ Cox provided testimony on the dire need for increased water infrastructure funding to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.](#) The Congressman's testimony stressed the need for investments in water infrastructure in the Central Valley.

Water & Natural Resources (cotd.)

- [Rep. TJ Cox chaired a hearing regarding the Reclamation Fund and the Bureau of Reclamation's future infrastructure funding needs.](#) The Reclamation Fund provides essential funding for water infrastructure projects, however, in the past, as much as \$1 billion from the fund have not been appropriated by Congress. The Congressman stressed the unacceptability of this fact and the need for meaningful investment in water infrastructure.



- [Rep. TJ Cox has cosponsored a bill to promote water infrastructure investments and water sustainability technology, especially in rural communities.](#) The Save Water Resources Act would promote water infrastructure investments, spurring innovation for sustainable water technology, and increasing water storage would also re-authorize the Rural Water Supply Act, a program directing the Department of the Interior to work with rural communities in the West to assess drinking water supply needs and identify options to address rural water needs through appraisal and feasibility studies.
- [The Congressman cosponsored and introduced legislation to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.](#) The Land and Water Conservation Fund protects natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage. Previous recipients of funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund include Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks, Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, Heritage Park in Lemoore, and Hanford Sports Complex, Hanford.

Agriculture/Nutrition

A new law, introduced by Rep. Cox, will help family farmers and ranchers weather a farm economy put in even more danger by a reckless trade war.

- [Rep. TJ Cox passed a bipartisan bill through the House to allow more family farms to weather the farm economy downturn.](#) The Family Farmer Relief Act restructures the Chapter 12 bankruptcy rules to make more farms eligible for protection amid a continued downturn in the farm economy. The bill, approved by the Senate and now awaiting the signature of the President, would expand the debt cap that can be covered under Chapter 12 bankruptcy from \$3,237,000 to \$10,000,000. The changes reflect the increase in land values, as well as the growth over time in the average size of U.S. farming operations and is meant to protect the vital agriculture economy of the Central Valley.
- [Rep. TJ Cox successfully pushed the Secretary of Agriculture to include walnuts in the Market Facilitation Program \(MFP\), which will assist producers as the effect of Trump's trade taxes continue to batter Central Valley agriculture.](#)
- [Rep. TJ Cox sent a letter to Secretary Perdue expressing serious concerns about USDA's proposed rule to eliminate broad-based categorical eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\).](#) The proposed rule would remove access to food assistance to approximately three million people, including working families in the Central Valley with children, veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.
- [Rep. TJ Cox was a lead co-sponsor of the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act.](#) The bill was introduced with the strong bipartisan support of 24 Democrats and 20 Republicans. The Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which was negotiated over several months with input from agricultural stakeholders and labor organizations, makes meaningful reforms to the H-2A agricultural guest worker program and creates a first-of-its-kind, merit-based visa program specifically designed for the nation's agricultural sector.

Foreign Affairs

Strong foreign relations keep our country strong and make our world more just and peaceful.

- [Rep. TJ Cox passed an amendment through the House to ensure the U.S. continues to aid demining efforts in the Republic of Artsakh \(Nagorno Karabakh\).](#) The amendment prioritizes funding that is allocated for the ongoing demining projects in the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh), and supports regional rehabilitation services for infants, children, and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities. Karabakh has one of the highest civilian casualty rates from land mines and unsolicited remnant of war and the amendment will secure continued funding. The Congressman is committed to working with his colleagues on the Armenian Caucus, Armenian National Committee of America, and HALO Trust to restore communities, and ensure the region is landmine free in the near future.
- [Rep. TJ Cox co-lead with Rep. Sherman a letter to Administrator Green of USAID to encourage the maintenance of funding for demining in the Republic of Artsakh.](#) To ensure the funding for demining efforts is not cut short, Congressman Cox worked with Congressman Brad Sherman to keep this issue on Administrator Green's radar.
- [Rep. TJ Cox co-sponsored and helped pass the House Resolution recognizing the Armenian Genocide.](#) For the first time in American history, the US House of Representatives officially recognized the Armenian Genocide through H.Res. 296.





Defense

We must make sure our people in uniform, like the sailors at NAS Lemoore, have the resources and support to keep us safe.

- [Rep. TJ Cox introduced and passed through the House an amendment to increase funding for post-traumatic stress research through the Department of Defense's Health Program by \\$10 million.](#) This Amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2020 would tackle the crisis of post-traumatic stress among Americans who served our nation.
- [Rep. TJ Cox led a bi-partisan letter with over 100 co-signers to Sec. Wilkie](#) regarding Assisted Living Pilot Programs for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury

Veterans Affairs

Rural veterans have earned their VA care and it's our job to make sure they get it.

- [Congressman TJ Cox introduced a bipartisan bill that would give permanent authorization for the Veteran Affairs \(VA\) Grant Program for Transportation of Highly Rural Veterans.](#) Currently every two-year Congress must reauthorize this vital program that appropriates \$3 million dollars in grants each year to aid in transportation of highly rural veterans to medical care. This bill would permanently extend authority of this program
- [Congressman TJ Cox introduced a bipartisan bill: Modernizing VA's Records Management Program Act.](#) In recent years, the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has moved to process over 99 percent of compensation claims electronically since the implementation of the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). This transition has been key to reducing the backlog of claims, as it allows routing of claims between all 56 regional offices based on available capacity and reduces the time spent on the claim by each claim processor.





Economy

Put rural small businesses first and communities can thrive.

- [Rep. TJ Cox introduced a bipartisan bill to bring more opportunity for rural small businesses.](#) The legislations introduced would study why the Office of Rural Affairs within the Small Business Administration (SBA) was dismantled.
- [Rep. TJ Cox's pro-rural, pro-small business, pro-Ag Amendment to the Raise the Wage Act passed the House of Representatives.](#) The amendment mandates a Government Accountability Office study following the second scheduled wage increase in the Raise the Wage Act. This will ensure that the Raise the Wage Act does not negatively impact rural communities, small businesses, and farmers and ranchers in the Central Valley.

Education

Every kid deserves an equal shot, regardless of their ZIP Code.

- [Rep. TJ Cox introduced bipartisan legislation to provide \\$1 billion in construction grants for education facilities. Lemoore Union School District used the same program for major renovations completed this year.](#) H.R. 3647, Impact Aid Infrastructure Act would provide temporary impact aid construction grants to eligible local educational agencies, and for other purposes. This bill is aimed at investing in education facilities needing modernization.
- [Rep. Cox secures \\$1.44 billion for the Impact Aid program in FY20.](#) This will help schools on federal lands like Central Union School District with schools at NAS Lemoore.
- [Rep. TJ Cox introduced the Remedial Improvement Act with his colleagues, which would provide competitive grants to a geographically diverse set of colleges and universities.](#) The grants would be available to colleges and universities of various sizes to develop or improve remedial education based on five models that have shown success during small-scale implementation. Students in programs funded under this grant would also be able to use federal student aid dollars to support up to two years of remediation, removing another barrier to on-time degree completion for remedial students. The legislation would also require evaluation of program effectiveness in order to determine the best systems of support that lead to college degree completion.





Reforming Democracy and Getting Big Money Out of Politics

We must take back our democracy for the people.

- [Rep. TJ Cox Cosponsored the For the People Act to help create a more transparent government.](#) H.R. 1 has passed the House of Representatives and would fundamentally transform our politics by taking power back from corporations and special interests, ending the era of big money, reducing gerrymandering, and tearing down barriers when voting for all Americans.



Immigration

Our immigration system is broken and we must fix it in order to keep the American Dream alive.

- [Rep. TJ Cox joined colleagues in the introduction and passage of the Dream and Promise Act of 2019.](#) This bill provides a pathway to permanent legal status for our DREAMers, people with Temporary Protected Status, and Deferred Enforced Departure holders.
- [Rep. TJ Cox has voted in favor of legislation to provide \\$4.5 billion in emergency funds to address the dire humanitarian situation on our Southern border.](#)
- [Rep. TJ Cox has voted in favor of adding Venezuela to the list of qualifying countries for Temporary Protected Status through the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019.](#)

Equality

All Americans deserve the opportunity to thrive and live free from discrimination.

- [Rep. TJ Cox has voted in favor of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act.](#) The Act reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and also addresses gaps in the existing law to further protect victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- [Rep. TJ Cox cosponsored the Equality Act.](#) The Equality Act would prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in a wide variety of areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system.
- [The Congressman cosponsored the and the Paycheck Fairness Act.](#) The Paycheck Fairness Act would address wage discrimination on the basis of sex by restricting the use of the bona fide factor defense to wage discrimination claims, enhancing nonretaliation prohibitions, making it unlawful to require an employee to sign a contract or waiver prohibiting the employee from disclosing information about the employee's wages, and increasing civil penalties for violations of equal pay provisions.
- [Rep. TJ Cox cosponsored the Every Child Deserves a Family Act.](#) This bill would amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act put in place in 1974 to strengthen support for LGBTQ youth who are at risk of or have suffered child abuse. The Act also calls on government agencies to research ways to protect vulnerable LGBTQ youth from abuse and neglect.

Environmental Protection

Our land and air are our most valuable resources and must be protected.

- [Rep. TJ Cox cosponsored a bill to require the President to develop a plan for the United States to meet its Paris Agreement carbon reduction goals.](#) The Climate Act Now bill requires that the president develop a plan that describes steps to (1) cut greenhouse gas emissions by 26%-28% below 2005 levels by 2025, and (2) confirm that other parties to the agreement with major economies are fulfilling their announced contributions.
- [Rep. TJ Cox supports action on climate change by cosponsoring the 100% Clean Economy Act.](#) This bill would set a national goal of a carbon neutral economy by 2050 and requires each federal agency to create a plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to achieve that goal.

Animal Welfare

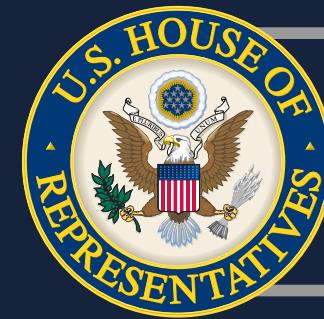
Animals are integral to the Central Valley's economy and culture and they deserve protection.

- [Rep. TJ Cox cosponsored the Providing Responsible Emergency Plans for Animals at Risk of Emerging Disasters \(PREPARED Act\).](#) This bill requires facilities regulated by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA)—such as commercial animal breeders (puppy mills), zoos and research institutions—to create response plans for protecting animals in their care during disasters. This requires those who use animals commercially to demonstrate a level of readiness to protect animals under their care.
- [Rep. TJ Cox cosponsored and voted on the Prevent All Soring Tactics \(PAST\) Act.](#) This PAST Act cracks down on the abusive practice of "soring" to prevent unnecessary pain and injuries to the hooves and legs of Tennessee Walking Horses and related breeds. This passed with strong bipartisan support with a vote of 333-96 in the House.

Culture

The Central Valley's diversity is its strength and we should honor every contribution that enriches our culture.

- [Rep. TJ Cox is a cofounder and vice chair of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus.](#) He introduced [a bipartisan resolution recognizing the contributions of Sikh Americans to the United States.](#)
- [Rep. TJ Cox introduced the first ever House resolution for the designation of June as Portuguese National Heritage Month.](#)
- [Rep. TJ Cox co-introduced a resolution to designate October 2019 as "Filipino American History Month".](#) This resolution is intended to honor the rich history and culture of Filipino Americans and celebrate their significant contributions to the United States.



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CALIFORNIA'S 21ST DISTRICT

