



# Congressman Dana Rohrabacher California's 46th District Bulletin

March 2010

## Congressman Rohrabacher's District Offices

### Satellite District Offices:\*

#### District Office

101 Main Street, Suite 380  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
714/960-6483 office  
714/960-7806 fax  
310/377-9493  
*Office Hours:*  
Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm

#### Conservation Corps Bldg.

340 Nieto Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90814  
*Office Hours*  
by appointment

#### Palos Verdes

550 Deep Valley Drive, #355  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
*Office Hours:*  
by appointment

*\*Satellite office space courtesy of Hon. Michelle Steel, SBOE and Hon. Gary DeLong*



### U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES Congressional Nomination

If you wish to apply to one of our nation's service academies, please contact my Academy Nomination Coordinator Tony Capitelli at [714-960-6483](tel:714-960-6483) to learn more about the Congressional nomination process. Nomination packets are due on November 1, 2010 at my Huntington Beach district office.

## Higher Education Tax Benefits

### STUDENTS:

You may qualify for **tax credits** or **deductions** on tuition! EdFund's updated tax guide is a useful resource for information on the new American Opportunity tax credit. Students and families seeking to offset college costs may visit [www.edfund.gov](http://www.edfund.gov) for more information.




### CREDIT CARD ACT

#### What to Expect

The Credit Card Accountability, Responsibility and Disclosure Act helps borrowers better understand the cost of borrowing and provides more consumer protections.

#### What to Expect:

- Fewer students under age 21 will have credit cards
- Lower credit limits
- Possible reduction in rewards programs

#### Fees:

- No fees to make a payment by phone
- No over-limit fees unless a borrower has signed an agreement that allows it

#### Interest Rates:

- No increases in interest rates on existing balances
- Promotional rates must last at least six months

More information can be found at [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).

## Undeliverable Tax Refunds

If you are missing your tax refund check from 2009, you can use "Where's My Refund?" on [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call [1-800-829-1954](tel:1-800-829-1954) to check on the status of the missing refund and update your address if you have moved. To get your refund faster and reduce the risk of a refund check being lost or stolen, use the Direct Deposit option in 2010.



## VETERANS SERVICES

You may qualify for healthcare, education and training, military record and medals, life insurance, home loan guarantees, etc. Please find the complete federal veterans booklet at [http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp).

Are you acquainted with the "one-stop" Veterans Service Center that is located at the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) in Los Alamitos? You can find more information on how this service center enhances access to your benefits at [veteransservicecenter.com](http://veteransservicecenter.com).



### SCHOLARSHIPS for Graduating High School Seniors

The Port of Long Beach awards an annual scholarship to high school seniors interested in pursuing careers in international trade and other port-related industries. To qualify students must demonstrate financial need, have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and plan to major in a field related to national trade, goods movement or other port-related industries. Applications can be found online at <http://www.polb.com/civica/filebank/blobload.asp?BlobID=5835>.



## HOME BUYERS:

Tax Credit extended to April 30th and now some current homeowners also qualify!

### 10 THINGS You Need to Know About The Extended Tax Credit:

1. Buy—or enter into a binding contract to buy a principal residence—on or before April 30, 2010.
2. Binding contracts must close on or before June 30, 2010.
3. For qualifying purchases in 2010, the credit can be claimed on a 2009 or 2010 return.
4. Owner occupants of the same principal residence for *any* five-consecutive year period during the eight-year period that ends on the date a new home is purchased, with a settlement date after November 6, 2009, can qualify for a reduced credit.
5. The maximum credit for long-time residents is \$6,500. Married individuals filing separately are limited to \$3,250.
6. For homes purchased after November 6, 2009, the full credit is available to taxpayers with modified adjusted gross incomes up to \$125,000 or \$225,000 for joint filers.
7. Form 5405 was revised in December 2009. This form must be used for homes purchased after November 6, 2009.
8. No credit is available if the purchase price of the home exceeds \$800,000.
9. The purchaser must be at least 18 years old on the date of purchase. For a married couple, only one spouse must meet this age requirement.
10. A dependent is not eligible to claim the credit.

For more details on this credit, visit [www.IRS.gov/Recovery](http://www.IRS.gov/Recovery)



### From Congressman Rohrabacher:

One of the most important things I do as your federal elected U.S. Representative is help people with federal problems. Although I can't override the decisions made by a federal agency, I can intervene on a constituent's behalf to answer questions, find solutions or just cut through the red tape. If you are experiencing problems with a federal agency don't hesitate to contact my office at 714-960-6483.



## U.S. SAVINGS BONDS

For the upcoming 2010 tax season you now have the unique opportunity to buy low-risk U.S. Savings Bonds with a portion or all of your tax refund. Savings bonds are a great way to start or increase your overall savings. Savings

bonds are low-risk, liquid, and interest earned on savings bonds is not taxable at the state or local level. To buy bonds with your tax refund tell your tax preparer you want to buy savings bonds with all or part of your refund. If you prepare your own return, simply file Form 8888, Direct Deposit of Refund to More Than One Account.

1. Use routing number: 043736881
2. Check the Savings box
3. Enter "BONDS" as the account number

For more information on U.S. Savings Bonds visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) or [treasurydirect.gov](http://treasurydirect.gov).



## Fund Your Future

As a student, or a family member helping a student prepare for college, you want to explore all your education and financing options as you prepare to take that important step to college. Applying for financial aid can seem daunting but Edfund can help you. Here you'll find the information, tips and links you need to make your education dreams a reality—whether that means researching colleges or learning more about your funding options.

Be sure to check out EdFund's [Fund Your Future](#) materials for additional information on paying for college at <http://www.edfund.org/wps/portal/StudentsAndFamilies>.

## 2010 TAX SEASON

Most income is taxable, however, there are some situations when certain types of income may only be partially taxed or not taxed at all. Common examples include:

- Child Support Payments
- Worker's Compensation Benefits
- Welfare Benefits
- Scholarship or Fellowship Grant
- Life insurance
- Compensatory Damages
- Gifts and inheritances
- Adoption Expense Reimbursements

For more information call [1-800-TAX-FORM](tel:1-800-TAX-FORM) or visit [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).



## WANT TO READ THE BILLS??

At the beginning of the 104th Congress, Congressional Leaders directed the Library of Congress to make federal legislative information accessible to the public online. If you would like to read current or pending legislation, visit the Library of Congress website at [Thomas.loc.gov](http://Thomas.loc.gov). Use the bill number or keyword option to find a bill. If you need further assistance tracking legislation contact my office at 714-960-6483.