



2021 IN REVIEW

Dear Christopher,

This year, as we continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, I have made it my mission to ensure that we build our nation back better and stronger than before. Though we have faced many challenges—from defeating the COVID-19 virus and strengthening our economy to protecting the sacred right to vote—I **have never been more optimistic about what's possible under President Biden and this Democratic Congress!**

Already, we've delivered historic progress for the people of Alabama and especially those in our district. Six weeks into President Biden's Administration, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan to save our people and our economy from the pandemic and deliver critical relief directly to families, small businesses, cities, counties, hospitals, and schools. I was proud to secure billions of dollars for the State of Alabama, our cities and counties, and our schools. Just last month, I joined Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle as President Biden signed the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the largest investment in our nation's infrastructure in nearly a century! The law will fix our roads and bridges, connect Alabamians to high-speed internet, invest in our water infrastructure, and create millions of good-paying jobs.

As we work to put our Nation on a path toward equity and prosperity, my commitment to delivering for the great people of Alabama's 7th Congressional District has remained unwavering. In spite of the pandemic, in 2021, my office hosted 97 district events including telephone town hall meetings, virtual grant and small business workshops, Facebook Live events, and of course, our 10th Annual Job Fair in Bessemer which brought together over 60 employers and almost 500 job seekers! In 2021, we secured over \$1.79 billion in federal grants and recovered over \$1.17 million in favorable benefits owed to constituents by the federal government. Representing you in Congress is my greatest honor, and I can't wait to see all that we continue to achieve together.

Help is Here from the American Rescue Plan
Revitalizing Alabama's Schools, Businesses, and Municipalities

In March 2021, I proudly voted to pass

the American Rescue Plan, \$1.9 trillion legislation that provided urgently needed resources to combat the pandemic, put vaccines in arms, money in pockets, and children safely back in the classroom. This historic law delivered on the promise of providing direct assistance to households across America with checks of \$1,400 per person. The law also provided direct housing assistance, nutrition assistance for [794,000 Alabamians](#), expanded access to safe and reliable child care and affordable health care, an expanded Child Tax Credit for over [76,000 families](#) in Alabama's 7th District, and an improved Earned Income Tax Credit for [15 million low-wage workers](#).



Rep. Sewell greets local officials in Wilcox County during her American Rescue Plan District Tour

The American Rescue Plan also provided [\\$553 million](#) in desperately needed direct financial assistance to cities and counties in Alabama's 7th Congressional District. Our cities and counties are on the front lines in the fight against COVID, and the direct assistance helped to develop local vaccination plans, pay frontline workers overtime and hazard pay, and continued essential services to our families and seniors. The law also supported the hardest-hit small businesses in Alabama, especially Black and women-owned businesses with EIDL grants, expanded PPP eligibility and much more!

Combatting COVID-19 and Investing in Health Care ***Getting Shots in Arms and Keeping Alabamians Healthy***

The pandemic put a spotlight on the health disparities that plague our rural and underserved communities. That's why as Co-Chair of the Ways and Means Racial Equity Initiative, I've made expanding access to health care a top priority. We know that getting people vaccinated is our pathway out of this pandemic, and I was proud that the American Rescue Plan provided [\\$20 billion](#) for a national vaccination program to get shots in arms and keep Alabamians safe and healthy. I was also proud that our [Maternal Vaccination Act](#), which would provide funding to increase vaccination rates for vulnerable mothers and babies, passed the House of Representatives in December 2021!

In 2021, I re-introduced the [Resident Physician Shortage Act](#) to create thousands of new graduate medical education residency slots and tackle our nation's growing physician shortage. I also introduced a bill to [expand telehealth coverage](#) for our seniors and those living in rural or remote areas. Additionally, our [Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act](#), which I introduced in March 2021, would ensure that Medicare covers new cutting-edge screenings that detect cancer earlier than ever before! Finally, we successfully included language in the Build Back Better Act to close the Medicaid coverage gap and deliver quality, affordable health insurance to Alabamians locked out of Medicaid.

Protecting the Sacred Right to Vote

House Passes the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act



Rep. Sewell speaks at a press conference with House leadership following passage of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Old battles have become new again as we witness the most coordinated effort to restrict the right to vote in generations. In 2021, state legislatures across the country have introduced over [400 bills](#) that erect deliberate barriers to the ballot box. In 19 states, 33 of these bills have [already become law](#). They may not require Black and minority voters to count the number of jelly beans in a jar, but these bills are no less pernicious than the poll taxes and literacy tests of our past.

It has never been more urgent to restore and strengthen federal oversight in voting rights. That's why in August 2021, I proudly re-introduced H.R. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. H.R. 4 would restore section 4 of the Voting Rights Act which was gutted by the Supreme Court in 2013. It would establish a new formula for determining which jurisdictions must get their election laws pre-cleared by the Department of Justice. On August 24, 2021, H.R. 4 [passed](#) the House of Representatives by a vote of 219-213. It now awaits further action in the Senate where we hope our Senators understand the urgency of the present moment and will do what is right by the American people to protect the sacred right to vote.

Once-in-a-Generation Infrastructure Investment

Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Signed into Law

In November 2021, under the leadership of President Biden, Congress passed the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#), the largest investment in our nation's infrastructure in nearly a century! This legislation will create good-paying jobs, repair Alabama's crumbling roads and bridges, expand access to high-speed affordable internet, and make transformational investments in Alabama's drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The law's many provisions will supercharge America's global competitiveness and put our nation back on track to have world class infrastructure. With the passage of this bill, President Biden has accomplished what other administrations have been trying to do for decades.

As the only member of the Alabama Delegation to vote for this bill, I was proud to help secure [\\$5.2 billion](#) for Alabama's roads, [\\$225 million](#) for Alabama's bridges, [\\$100 million](#) to connect Alabamians to high speed internet, and [\\$782 million](#) for

Alabama's water infrastructure. Specifically, I worked to secure [\\$137 million](#) from the EPA for water infrastructure projects in Alabama which will be prioritized for underserved communities. My bill, the Decentralized Wastewater Grant Act, was also included in the infrastructure bill, creating a new [\\$50 million](#) per year grant program to construct and refurbish septic tanks for low-income individuals.

I was also proud to help secure the inclusion of several critical provisions that would address the ongoing railroad blockages that plague the 7th District. I fought to ensure that equity is a central focus of this bill, and I'm proud that it will uplift hard-working Alabamians from our biggest cities to our most rural communities. I look forward to working with the Biden Administration and the State of Alabama to ensure these resources are distributed fairly and equitably.



President Biden signs the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law



Rep. Sewell poses with job-seekers at her 10th Annual Job Fair in Bessemer

Getting People in Jobs **Connecting Job-Seekers with Employers**

When I came to Congress, I promised the people of Alabama's 7th District that I would bring better employment opportunities directly to my constituents wherever they lived. Our annual job fair delivers on that promise, connecting job-seekers to employers in rural and urban areas. In 2021, we had our 10th Annual Job Fair in Bessemer, finally returning to an in-person setting and welcoming over 60 employers from 10 industries and almost 500 job-seekers! Stay tuned for next year's 11th Annual Job Fair in Selma!

Delivering for our Seniors **Protecting and Expanding Retirement and Social Security Benefits**

Alabama's seniors deserve to retire with dignity after a lifetime of work. That's why delivering for our seniors continues to be top priority. I'm excited that in 2022, our seniors will receive a [5.9% increase](#) in their Social Security benefits thanks to the cost-of-living adjustment. As a member of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, I was proud to join Chairman John Larson to introduce [Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust](#). This landmark legislation would enhance Social Security benefits for the first time in 50 years, providing a benefit bump for current and new beneficiaries, improving the cost-of-living formula, and providing credits for those who take time out of the workforce to care for a loved one. I also introduced a [bill](#) that would make it easier for part-time employees to begin saving for retirement. This bill

was included in a larger bill, the SECURE 2.0 Act.

I'm proud that President Biden's [Build Back Better Act](#) will expand Medicare to cover hearing services and will lower the cost of prescription drugs that our seniors rely on. I will continue to fight for policies that support our seniors by protecting and expanding retirement benefits and lowering costs across the board.

Constituent Services Report

Delivering for Alabama

- **2,754** federal grants awarded to the 7th Congressional District in 2021 totaling **\$1.79 billion**
- Over **\$1.17 million** in favorable benefits awarded to constituents owed by the federal government assisted by our office in 2021
- Nearly **500** job-seekers and over **60** employers from **10** industries participated in our 10th Annual Job Fair in 2021
- Held **79** virtual briefings with stakeholders
- Hosted **97** district events including: **14** American Rescue Plan check presentations, **6** Facebook Live "Terri Talks," **5** infrastructure events, **4** grant workshops, **4** telephone town halls, **1** virtual art competition
- Attended **5** voting rights events at the Supreme Court to discuss the need to pass H.R. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act
- **520** new constituent cases opened and **704** cases closed in 2021
- Over **20,000** letters and email replies sent to constituents in 2021
- **412** bills passed the House in 2021
- **352** bills sponsored or cosponsored by Rep. Sewell in 2021
- **15** interns serving Alabama's 7th District virtually and in-person in our D.C. and district offices in 2021
- **\$10 million** secured for the expansion of the Selma Interpretive Center in President Biden's FY2022 budget, according the Department of the Interior
- **\$2.12 billion** American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds secured for the [State of Alabama](#)
- **\$553 million** ARP funds secured for [counties, cities in the 7th District](#)
- **\$2.02 billion** ARP funds secured for [Alabama's K-12 schools](#)
- **\$584 million** ARP funds secured for Alabama's [colleges and universities](#)
- **\$92.7 million** ARP funds secured for [community health centers in Alabama](#)
- **\$590 million** ARP funds secured for [Alabama hospitals and providers](#)
- **\$258 million** ARP funds for [Emergency Rental Assistance](#) secured for the State of Alabama
- **\$188 million** in [tax cuts](#) from the Child Tax Credit delivered to **76,000** families in Alabama's 7th District
- **\$5.2 billion** in infrastructure funding for [Alabama's roads](#)
- **\$225 million** in infrastructure funding for [Alabama's bridges](#)
- **\$400 million** in infrastructure funding for [public transportation improvements](#) in Alabama
- **\$782 million** in infrastructure funding for Alabama's [water infrastructure](#)
- **\$100 million** in infrastructure funding to [expand broadband](#) in Alabama

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Every day, I have the great privilege of bringing your thoughts and concerns to the halls of Congress. Fill out the survey below to let me know your TOP priority for 2022.

*NOTE: By submitting your response, you are agreeing to receive regular email updates from Rep. Terri Sewell. You may opt-out at any time.

What is your TOP priority for 2022?

- Protecting the Right to Vote and Safeguarding our Democracy
- Defeating the COVID-19 Virus
- Improving Access to Health Care
- Combatting Gun Violence
- Strengthening our Economic Recovery
- Addressing the Climate Crisis
- Advancing Racial Justice
- Lowering Costs for Hard Working Families
- Other (please specify)

Submit

[Click to open in a separate window](#)

“IT’S AN HONOR TO REPRESENT YOU IN CONGRESS”



Our office motto “Constituents First” represents our ongoing commitment to assisting you and your family throughout the year. This year presented new and difficult challenges, increasing our resolve to ensure those living in Alabama’s 7th District can access the federal programs and funding available to them. In 2021, the district received over **\$1.79 billion** in federal grants and our office helped constituents recover more than **\$1.17 million** in benefits owed to them by the federal government. While the coronavirus limited our ability to meet in person, our office hosted **97 district events**, including telephone town halls, Facebook Live

events, webinars, forums, workshops, and our annual job fair. A proud daughter of Alabama’s Black Belt, I know firsthand just how much potential there is for our district to prosper, and as we come out of this pandemic, I’m committed to ensuring we not only survive, but thrive.

Be sure to check in regularly with my [website](#) and social media pages ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#)) for updates. As always, take good care.

I look forward to hearing from you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terri Sewell".

Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy](#)
