



## CONGRESSMAN SOLOMON P. ORTIZ (TX-27)

### *Application Packet for Nomination to U.S. Congressional Page Program Summer 2009*

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#### Overview

Congressman Solomon Ortiz is seeking applications from South Texans in the 27<sup>th</sup> District of Texas for the United States Congressional Page Program. Candidates will be screened by a committee of judges and scored. Ortiz's office will announce the winner in mid-May.

#### **The qualifications are stringent; a page candidate must be:**

- 16 years old on or before June 7, 2009, (applicant must provide a copy of their birth certificate as proof of age),
- A Junior in High School (completed the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and not started the 12<sup>th</sup> grade) and in good physical health,
- A United States citizen and a resident of TX district 27,
- A 3.0 GPA, (applicant must provide a copy of their High School transcript),
- Supported by their parents/guardian to be a Congressional Page through signed consent, and
- Applicants must provide an application package to Ortiz's office by **April 10, 2009**.
- **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE RULES**

Page applicants should fill out this application with your parents/guardian (or a counselor from school or your church). Your parents are a large part of your decision to be part of the Page program, and without their support you may not apply. Remember you are 16 years old; only your parent(s) or guardian(s) may give permission by signing this application.

**Highlights for students/parents to know:** What this opportunity means: Pages for the House of Representatives have the ultimate chance of a lifetime for a firsthand look inside the Halls of Congress, and the House Chamber, where debates are held, votes are called, and laws are made in the United States.

There is no better way to learn about government but to live it. The people Congressional Pages meet here will be the movers and shakers in the country for the rest of his/her life. Washington is an exciting place and every Page who leaves the program here tells us the experience profoundly changed their life.

The experience will demand a young person be in excellent physical health, as there will be LOTS of errands running back and forth between the Capitol and the House and Senate office buildings for Pages, so families need to consider that when making this decision.

Solomon P. Ortiz 27<sup>th</sup> District of Texas  
District Offices:  
3649 Leopard St., Suite 510, Corpus Christi, TX 78408 361-883-5868  
1805 Ruben Torres Blvd., Suite B-27, Brownsville, TX 78521 956-541-1242

The Congressional Page Program has incredibly strict guidelines pages must meet; Pages must be of the highest moral fiber. Educational standards are very high.

Their workday begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. or until the House adjourns the business for the day. The House frequently adjourns the day's business well into the evening, after which tired pages go to their dorms.

Families and prospective pages must bear in mind that this time in Washington, D.C., Pages will miss the regular activities of their life at home and school (birthdays, sports/homecoming, family trips, dances/social events, etc.) during the time they are here.

Going home is hard ... it's expensive and hard to get away with the House schedule, which is always wildly unpredictable.

**Costs to the Page family:** While the position is salaried, there is an initial cost to the family. The minimum cost to a family is about \$800-\$1,000 for families (detailed below), but if the committee chooses a candidate to be a Page, and the cost is beyond what your family can afford, you will have time to raise the money (see note below).

- Plane ticket: (roughly \$500 or less if reservations are made in lots of time; can go up to well over \$1,000 if not made in advance)
- Clothes: the Congressional Page program has a strict dress code (gray pants, white shirts/blouses, and blazers; there will be more specific instructions in the programs' papers), will probably need to buy clothes (in TX) ... can be as expensive or as inexpensive as you can find them
- Security deposit of \$100 for dorm
- Spending \$ - suggest pages bring \$250 in travelers checks to cover expenses of the first month like lunch weekend activities and other expenses
- Other travel expenses (additional trips home, etc. will drive the cost up)

**Salary:** Monthly, around \$1,500 minus taxes (state and federal), and Social Security, and minus residence fees (\$400 per month, which includes breakfast, lunch and supper 5 days a week, and suppers on weekends, and is pro-rated).

**NOTE:**

*If your family cannot afford the associated costs of participating in the Page program – and that is the only factor preventing your participation – be aware that while our Congressional office is prohibited from soliciting funds, we can direct you to somebody to guide you in soliciting the funds yourself and getting donations of plane tickets to and from Washington, D.C., and donations of clothes for the Page uniform.*



**EXTRACURRICULAR AND PERSONAL ACTIVITIES**

Please list your principal extracurricular, community, and family activities and hobbies in the order of their interest to you. Include specific events and/or major accomplishments, such as musical instrument played, varsity letters earned, etc.

Activity	Grade level or year of participation			Approximate numbers of hours spent per week	Positions held or honors won
	9	10	11		

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Please list any job (including summer employment) you have held during the past three years.

Specific nature of work	Employer	Approximate dates of employment	Approximate no. of hours spent per week

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**AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT**

This section offers an opportunity for you to help us become acquainted with you and why you would like to be a Congressional Page. It allows you to demonstrate your ability to organize your thoughts and express yourself. With this in mind, please type or print legibly a 250-300 word autobiography.

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My signature below indicates that all the information contained in my application is complete, factually correct, and honestly presented.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A PAGE

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1. **AGE** – Pages must be at least 16 years old on the day the page term in which they will serve begins. Verification of age is required.
2. **GRADE LEVEL** – Fall or Spring Term – A page serving in the academic year must be a junior in high school. The House Page School offers only a junior year course of study.

*SUMMER TERM* – A page serving during the summer term must have completed the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and not yet entered the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

3. **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS** – Fall or Spring – Page Board regulations require that candidates must have maintained at least a 3.0 academic Grade Point Average, in their major subjects, for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. If grading is on a numerical scale, the GPA must be at least 85. **THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS!** Only English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and a foreign language are considered in determining the GPA.

*SUMMER TERM* – There is no page school during the summer. There are no academic requirements for summer pages, although grade transcript is still required.

## DECLARATION OF PARENTAL CONSENT

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We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, are the parents (or legal guardians) of and give our consent to \_\_\_\_\_, to apply for an appointment to serve as a Page in the US House of Representatives, beginning \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mother or Guardian's signature

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## **APPLICANT CHECK LIST**

- Completed Application
- Official Transcript
- 250-300 Word Essay
- Three Letters of Recommendation (One letter from current teacher)
- Parental Consent Form
- Requirements for being a Page