



State Reps. Mary Mushinsky and David Baram.



State Reps. David Baram and Gary Holder-Winfield.

A BALANCED BUDGET *for* CONNECTICUT

– *On Time and On Target*

By working hard and reaching across party lines to create a compromise, we were able to balance this year's state budget with:

- » No tax increases
- » No cuts in municipal aid or education funding (ECS)
- » No change in funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses
- » Funding for dental care and prescriptions for seniors and the disabled
- » A \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes

*We erased a \$10 billion deficit,
balancing the budget on time and on target.*

Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Aid	Bloomfield	Windsor
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$116,583	\$75,344
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$149,991	\$0
Town Aid Roads	\$170,999	\$203,537
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$130,091	\$184,329
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$155,555	\$104,315
Adult Education	\$25,100	\$50,981
School Transportation	\$164,972	\$375,138
Educational Cost Sharing	\$5,410,345	\$11,547,663
Total State Funds to the 15th District	\$6,323,636	\$12,551,307

State Representative
DAVID BARAM

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State Representative



David Baram

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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State Representative

David Baram

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Capitol Update

The 2010 legislative session has been one of both challenge and compromise as we worked to address the state budget deficit. In the end, we saw real results as legislative leadership and the Governor worked together to craft a sound, responsible and fair state budget. I am proud that we were able to work together, across party lines, to create a compromise and close the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years with no deficit and a balanced budget that avoided both devastating cuts to services and widespread tax increases.

As we look to the future, fiscal challenges remain. While I am truly optimistic about Connecticut's economic recovery, I remain realistic about the absolute necessity to prevent wasteful spending, limit borrowing and keep taxes in check. I will continue to work towards those goals as your voice in the State Capitol.



State Representative

David Baram

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If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me:

State Representative
David Baram

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585

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Environment

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We all recognize the importance of recycling to protect our environment. Connecticut residents will now be able to recycle more through changes made to state law that:

- » Allow for more types of paper and plastic to be recycled
- » Require private trash collectors to offer recycling
- » Require recycling bins in public areas where regular trash bins are located

Saluting Our Veterans

- » Veterans in nursing homes can now use the VA as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers
- » Honorably discharged retired veterans with 30 years or more of service can now apply for "retirement promotions" and move up one grade in rank
- » Active duty service members out of state will get an extension for 30 days to renew their expired driver's licenses after their return to Connecticut
- » March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day
- » Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses

Protecting Families

Responding to Domestic Violence in our Communities

Sadly, it seems hardly a week goes by that we don't hear of a tragic incident of family violence in our state. The legislature responded with the most sweeping reforms to our domestic violence laws in the past 25 years. I served as a member of the Domestic Violence Task Force and was proud to support legislation that:

- » Trains educators to recognize and respond to warning signs of domestic violence
- » Provides relief to victims who terminate their housing rental agreements to protect their safety
- » Increases staffing at domestic violence shelters
- » Creates a pilot GPS tracking program to monitor offenders
- » Improves enforcement of protective orders
- » Expands the use of dedicated domestic violence court dockets
- » Improves employment protections for domestic violence victims
- » Permits prosecutors to consider older and out of state crimes for persistent family violence offenders

Creating Jobs

Number One Priority – Dig Out of the Recession

Working with the Governor, we passed a significant new jobs bill that will help put Connecticut on the road to economic recovery with:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and nonprofits
- » Student loan reimbursement for careers in new and emerging fields

- » Income tax credits for investments in new technology businesses
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month per new employee
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Better environmental rules to speed up business permitting process

Health Care

Moving Forward on Health Reform

The recent passage of the historic federal health care reform law will lead to welcome improvements in the quality, access and affordability of health care for Connecticut residents. This session, the legislature built on those improvements, taking steps to lower costs and enhance transparency and accountability in our health care system.

The new legislation:

- » Saves money for towns by allowing them to join the state in bulk purchasing of prescription drugs
- » Requires insurance companies to disclose denial rates so consumers can compare the quality of different plans
- » Extends state COBRA coverage from 18 to 30 months so laid off employees can keep their health insurance as they look for new jobs
- » Requires insurance companies to refer consumers to the state Office of the Health Care Advocate for assistance with denials of coverage
- » Improves coverage for chemotherapy patients
- » Enhances patient safety by improving hospital reporting of medical errors

Bloomfield and Windsor Save by Working Together

Property Taxpayers May Get Relief

Bloomfield and Windsor can now team-up with other towns to save money while delivering necessary services.

House Speaker Christopher G. Donovan created the blue ribbon commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE). Representative David Baram was vice-chair of the Town Functions Committee of MORE. The Commission was charged with initiating a new approach to state and local government in Connecticut that would make our state more economically competitive in the short and long term.

Over the coming year, additional opportunities for cost savings will be discussed with local government officials and business leaders – all working together to encourage more cooperation between towns.

This year we worked for:

- » Cost savings by allowing towns to join the state in bulk purchasing of prescription drugs
- » Saving money on school transportation by giving money to towns that work together to provide transportation services
- » Health insurance savings by allowing two or more municipalities or boards of education to purchase employee health benefits
- » Getting local taxpayers off the hook for storing the belongings of evicted tenants while protecting tenant's rights

Good News for Seniors

Reducing Costs for Homecare Services

Seniors using the CT Homecare Program for Elders will soon see a reduction in their monthly costs for critical in-home services, such as meal deliveries and personal care assistance. The budget reduces the percentage seniors pay for these services from 15% to 6% -- saving the average client nearly \$100 each month.



Rep. David Baram in the House Chamber

Supporting Services for Alzheimer's Patients

Last year's budget protected the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, which provides small grants to family members caring for people with Alzheimer's to fund personal care, home health and adult day care services. Governor Rell closed the program in 2009, but working with advocates, the legislature was able to re-open the program in May, allowing Connecticut families to receive these important services.

Improving the Senior Driver Discount Program

New legislation encourages seniors to keep their driving skills sharp by making it easier to qualify for safe driver discounts. People age 60 and older will now be able to complete a shorter, 4-hour driving program to be eligible for a two-year discount of 5% or more on their automobile insurance.

Protecting Seniors from the Medicaid Spend-Down

New legislation will help seniors protect their assets when their spouse needs to enter a nursing home. Under current law, the spouse remaining at home must spend down half of his or her assets in order to allow the ill spouse to qualify for Medicaid coverage. This year, we increased the asset cap, so that the couple can keep assets up to \$110,000 and still qualify the ill spouse for Medicaid.

State Representative

DAVID BARAM

To receive more information on any of the following issues, e-mail, call or mail me the completed form. Make sure to give your name, address and email, and indicate which issues you're interested in.

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 2010 Major Acts | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |

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