



Rep. Baram with Windsor Seniors.

## Protecting Seniors

The legislature focused on improving the quality of life for our senior citizens.

**Money Follows the Person** is expanded under the state budget, allowing more nursing home residents to transition back home. This program provides Medicaid funds for home care, which benefits families and saves taxpayers money.

**Nursing Home Grievance** committees will be established at each facility to ensure residents' concerns are resolved in a timely manner. Two nursing home employees and one elected resident will comprise the committee.

**Grandparents Rights** will be the subject of a study aimed at enhancing their ability to seek visitation rights.

**Helping with Grocery Bills** the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program has grown, making it easier for seniors to qualify and better afford their groceries. More information is available at: 800-742-6906.

## Protecting Domestic Violence Victims

Finding new ways to reduce domestic violence is an ongoing challenge. We passed legislation to lessen the incidence of domestic violence by:

- Increasing access to restraining and protective orders
- Improving information sharing between state agencies
- Facilitating victim's access to support services
- Providing police with more tools to protect communities.

We also made reforms to the bail bond process to eliminate "undercutting" to further protect victims.

I had the privilege of serving on the Domestic Violence Task Force that recommended these reforms.

www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram

State Representative

# David Baram

Proudly Serving Bloomfield and Windsor | 15<sup>th</sup> District

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Dear Friends,

The 2011 Legislative Session was incredibly challenging. The recession made the budget process much more difficult. We made tough decisions to adopt a responsible and balanced budget. While there are parts of the final budget I do not agree with or like, it was necessary for 187 legislators and a new governor, to join together to pass a "consensus budget" that protected the middle class and poor as much as possible, and that did not rely on gimmicks or borrowing.

Nonetheless, I was able to achieve specific fiscal goals that were quite important. By preserving educational and municipal aid, local tax increases were kept at a minimum in most communities. I let the governor know early on, that I would not vote for a budget that slashed local aid, particularly to education.

I led the fight to reinstate the manufacturing, machinery and equipment reimbursement to towns, which the Governor eliminated. I fought to revive the local property tax credit that so many homeowners depend on. I voted to eliminate loopholes that allowed national companies to avoid state taxes.

Job creation was another priority. Expansion of the UConn Health Center and its Tech Park, the Bradley Airport Development Zone, Green Job initiatives and manufacturing reinvestment will help create thousands of new jobs and establish Connecticut as a preeminent medical research destination.

The legislature passed many other important laws that will benefit our families, some of which are detailed in this newsletter. I am particularly proud of the legislation that I authored and negotiated to open up municipal land for recreation such as bicycling, hiking, and picnicking, by allowing towns to avoid vexatious lawsuits. My bill (sometimes called the "MDC Bill"), passed almost unanimously!

Events like the east coast earthquake and Hurricane Irene, cause us to reflect upon those matters that are really important. I wish you and your families a successful New Year filled with happiness and good health. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

David Baram

# CAPITOL REPORT 2011

# David Baram

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## Jobs - My #1 Priority

The Legislature made sure that Connecticut is open for business by enacting laws that:

- Expand the UConn Health Center
- Create a UConn Tech Park
- Encourage large companies to add jobs or move to our state under the “First Five” program, that included the Cigna Corp.
- Expand our reinvestments in manufacturing
- Create the Connecticut Airport Authority to run Bradley airport as an economic engine
- Help people maintain their homes in the communities where they work by extending the Judicial Department’s Foreclosure Mediation program.

## Energy Reform and Brownfield Remediation

A bill I cosponsored will help clean up and reuse “brownfields” – contaminated and long abandoned properties that can be remediated and turned into productive and safe sites for economic development, open space or other public uses.

Comprehensive energy reform I supported will make the purchase of energy more competitive, thereby reducing utility costs for our residents.



Rep. Baram speaking at the Windsor Train Station.

## Budget

We crafted an historic budget to address the financial crisis brought on by the worst recession since the Great Depression. Our Budget will stabilize the state’s finances, streamline state government, and create jobs. I want to thank our state employees for helping to save so many vital services. While there were many things I didn’t agree with, overall the adopted budget accomplished the following major objectives:

- Reduces expenditures by over \$2 billion
- Protects cities and towns where most municipalities will receive an increase in total municipal aid
- Lowers taxes from the governor’s proposed budget
- Protects the middle class
- Restores the state property tax credit
- Balances the budget without borrowing for operating expense
- Streamlines government by consolidating state agencies from 81 to 56
- Maximizes the use of federal funds
- Increases the millionaire’s tax.



Rep. Baram with the new Superintendent of Bloomfield Public Schools Dr. James Thompson.

## Education

I cosponsored legislation that encourages school districts to include Holocaust and Genocide studies in their curricula.

We expanded Connecticut’s anti-bullying law to include bullying, harassment and intimidation using the internet or mobile phones.

We made it easier to get the best possible teachers into Connecticut’s classrooms by streamlining the process for qualified professionals to teach in charter schools.

An Early Childhood Education Cabinet has been created to develop a coordinated system of early childhood care and education.



Rep. Baram at the Windsor pet food drive.

## Animals and Children

We now require the cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty. Research indicates a strong connection between animal abuse, child abuse and domestic violence.

We also require animal importers to register with the Department of Agriculture, to have imported animals examined by a state-licensed veterinarian, and to notify the Department and local zoning officials before offering the animals for sale adoption or transfer.

## Consumer Protection

This year I was appointed by the Speaker of the House to be the vice chairman of the General Law Committee. I helped to lead the efforts to pass bills to protect consumers, which include:

- Toughened requirements for swimming pool installers by creating a swimming pool builder’s license and extended penalties
- Homemaker service agency registries are now required to notify a consumer that the consumer may be considered an employer for tax purposes. Homemaker service agencies will now be regulated by the Department of Consumer Protection
- Strengthening the Department of Consumer Protection’s oversight of licensed pharmacists
- Connecticut wineries will now be able to sell wine at farmer’s markets.

## WATCH VIDEOS ONLINE



Visit my website [www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram) to watch videos about Domestic Violence, protecting Recreational Lands and High Speed Rail.

## For Our Towns

I led the fight to protect the state reimbursement to towns for the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment Exemption Program, which promotes manufacturing and prevented local property tax increases by fully reimbursing our towns.

I authored and negotiated historic legislation to help guarantee the public’s right to use municipal land for recreation. It also will encourage towns to open up more land for recreation without having to worry about vexatious lawsuits.

State money is going to be used to help in developing the Windsor train station for use on the proposed New Haven to Springfield rail line.

I fought to preserve the “key” state grants for education and municipal aid which for the years 2011- 2013 are \$8,037,164 for Bloomfield and \$13,796,180 for Windsor.

## Environment

Eliminating toxic BPA: we have moved to eliminate BPA from cash register receipt paper.

Preserving Farms and Agriculture: I supported the Community Investment Act because protecting farmlands and expanding farm businesses creates jobs.

Old Cans of Paint: When buying paint, consumers will receive information about where to properly dispose of it.

## Saluting Our Veterans

Veterans, along with their families, have sacrificed so much so we can enjoy our freedom and a democratic way of life.

Veterans’ bills passed this session:

- Offer veterans’ license plates to a member of the U. S. armed forces or his or her surviving spouse
- Allow veteran status to be on a driver’s license or identity card
- Create a one-stop website for services available for veterans.



Rep. Baram with Governor Malloy at the Bill Signing for the recreational land bill.

## Let’s Keep in Touch

Visit my Website to sign up for email updates:  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Baram)

Call my office: 860-240-0272

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