



Mike and his wife Kate at the Capitol on the first day of the legislative session

State Representative  
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## 2013 Legislative Preview

Thank you for your support and for allowing me the privilege of representing you in the Connecticut General Assembly. It is an honor to serve Hamden and I will work hard to validate the trust you have placed in me. We are all facing difficult times as Connecticut turns the corner to economic recovery. To continue that path, we need a leaner, more efficient government that still delivers essential services. Hamden has been working toward and achieving that goal; there is no reason why the state cannot do so as well.

To that end, the 2013 Legislative Session is now underway. For this term, I have been appointed to positions on the Education Committee, the Government Administrations & Elections Committee and the Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee. Please keep in touch and contact me should you have any issues or concerns. I would appreciate your suggestions on how the state can operate more efficiently and more effectively serve Hamden.

If you would like to receive email updates -- and save paper -- please contact me at [michael.dagostino@cga.ct.gov](mailto:michael.dagostino@cga.ct.gov) and we will provide further updates to you via email.

Thank you again. 

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## **Job Growth Is Number One**

To keep Connecticut economically competitive with neighboring states, we must further support business growth and job creation. Attracting businesses, training workers and providing incentives for them to remain in the state translates into a healthier local economy and better job opportunities. Consolidating and increasing tax credits for new hires, investing in emerging technologies and providing more employment for our veterans have shown great success, but more needs to be done. Building a more educated workforce and a more business-friendly climate will allow Connecticut to thrive for the future.

## **Supporting Our Seniors**

With the future of federal and state funding in doubt, my priority at the state legislature will be to protect programs for our seniors such as elderly rental and property tax relief, home care support and, of course, Medicaid for those eligible. Ensuring the reach of these programs is critical for our seniors who live on

fixed and limited incomes. This is not just good public policy; it is essential for a successful community to ensure its residents are safe and secure. Indeed, for the past 20 years, we have been privileged to have Representative Peter Villano as our voice in Hartford. Representative Villano's many accomplishments include his tireless advocacy for our seniors and our residents in need. He helped enact legislation expanding the HUSKY A and B programs for eligible children and adults, home care programs for the elderly and disabled, nursing home care, assisted living services, adult day care and ConnPACE. To paraphrase a famous quote, I seek to succeed Representative Villano; nobody could replace him.

## **Transportation Improvements**

Connecticut's transportation system is the engine that powers the state's economy. Our investments in high-speed rail along the I-91/95 corridor as well as our commitment to light rail and other mass transit options across the state will help get vehicles off our crowded roads and keep commerce moving. Our push to modernize our roads and bridges and squeeze the federal government for every transportation dollar available will enhance the state's appeal to business and residents alike.



Mike and Hamden  
Mayor Scott Jackson

## **Education**

From Whitneyville to Westwoods, the strength of our public schools benefits all residents, not just those with children in the school system. Strong schools mean strong property values and a stable tax base. In my more than 12 years on the Board of Education, I campaigned tirelessly for Hamden's share of state education aid. I will continue to do so. But that is only half of the battle. We must ensure that we do not blindly impose unnecessary, unfunded mandates on our schools in the name of reform. I have always and will continue to work closely with Hamden Superintendent Rabinowitz to ensure that the laws passed in Hartford take into account the best interests of our students, our teachers and our town. For example, knowing that early childhood education provides a proven foundation for a child's future success, we will continue to lobby hard for additional pre-kindergarten slots for Hamden.