



A Balanced Budget

– On Time and On Target

Partnering with Governor Rell, we balanced the state’s budget – on time and without any tax increases. The budget contains no cuts in municipal aid funds and on average a \$60 decrease annually in electric bills for many residents.

This year’s budget bill included \$163 million in additional spending cuts across a host of state agencies and a reduction of \$300 million from a previous borrowing plan.

The spending cuts are deep, but necessary. Thankfully, we protected the services critically important to West Haven, including:

- » \$5,473,747 in non education town aid funding
- » \$42,578,792 in education funding
- » Funding for programs that assist seniors and the disabled
- » Maintained funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses.

We also provided a helping hand, through:

- » Lower co-pays for home care services by about \$100/month (endorsed by AARP)
- » Guaranteeing an average 60% reduction to a fee on your electric bill
- » \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
- » Funding for programs that help prevent mortgage foreclosure.

Additional good news for state residents this summer:

- » We reduced last year’s increase on state park fees and fishing /hunting licenses.

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

State Representative

STEPHEN D. DARGAN

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State Representative



Stephen D. Dargan

Proudly Serving West Haven | 115th District

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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 deficiency. 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 tax increases.

As we look ahead 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 at the state Capitol.



State Representative



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

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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

The legislature made the most sweeping reforms to our domestic violence laws in the past 25 years which will empower educators, service providers, law enforcement officers and survivors with new tools that make:

- » Improvements to educator training and the enforcement of protective orders
- » Employment and housing protections
- » GPS monitoring for high risk offenders
- » Additional domestic violence court dockets
- » Increased staffing at 24 hour emergency shelters



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

West Haven Saves by Working Together Saving on School Busing

Every town in Connecticut can now save money on their school transportation costs.

- » A new grant is available for boards of education from multiple towns that work together to provide transportation services
- » There will be new money coming to West Haven school system

Saving on Health Insurance

Cities and towns can now save money on health insurance costs.

- » Two or more towns or boards of education can join together to purchase health care benefits at lower costs
- » A larger group size can achieve lower premiums, better benefits for employees and more bargaining power for towns

Taxpayers Off the Hook for Evicted Property

- » Local taxpayers have been relieved of the cost of storing the belongings of evicted tenants
- » Tenants’ rights will be protected because state marshals will be responsible for removal, delivery and storage of belongings

Lower Cost Drugs

- » Municipalities can now take advantage of lower cost prescription drugs through state discounts
- » The bargaining power, low administrative costs, and discounts negotiated by the state will save cities and towns money



Creating Jobs Number One Priority – Dig Out of the Recession

One of the best ways to pull Connecticut out of the recession is through job creation.

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

The new job growth law creates jobs in Connecticut with:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and non profits
- » Student loan reimbursement and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- » Personal income tax credits for investments made in new and emerging technologies
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies, and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month per new employee
- » A Community Technical College advisory board to assess the training needs of unemployed residents
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Reformed environmental rules that speed up the business permitting process and maintain environmental protections
- » Changes to the state’s film tax credit program that will create more film production jobs in Connecticut.

Good News for Seniors Reducing Costs for Home Care Services

Seniors using the CT Home Care 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 saving the average client about \$100 each month.

Supporting Services for Alzheimer’s Patients

Last year’s budget protected the Alzheimer’s Respite Care Program, that 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.

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.

