



A Balanced Budget

Working cooperatively with Governor Dannel Malloy, 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.

The 2012-2013 budget passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Malloy:

- Cuts spending
- Lowers taxes from the governor's proposed budget
- Protects the middle class
- Restores the state property tax credit to \$300
- Balances the budget without borrowing for operating expenses
- Streamlines government by consolidating state agencies
- Maximizes the use of federal funds
- Increases the millionaire's tax
- Fairly distributes the income tax burden
- Saved our vo-tech schools that teach the skills that put people to work

Useful Numbers:

INFOLINE	211	Health Care Advocate	866.466.4446
Dept. of Social Services	800.842.1508	Dept. of Revenue Services	860.297.5962
Careline	800.842.2288	CT "Do Not Call" List	888.382.1222
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649	CT Veterans' Affairs	860.616.3600

State Representative
STEPHEN D. DARGAN

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State Representative

Stephen D. Dargan

Proudly Serving West Haven | 115th District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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State Representative

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear Neighbor,

As we turn the corner from recession toward economic recovery, I see opportunities to build on the successful business and job growth initiatives passed by the legislature this year.

Your input helped shape my votes during the last regular session of the General Assembly. I protected the services you expect and state aid to cities and towns that support West Haven's budget, repairs roads and helps keep your local property taxes down.

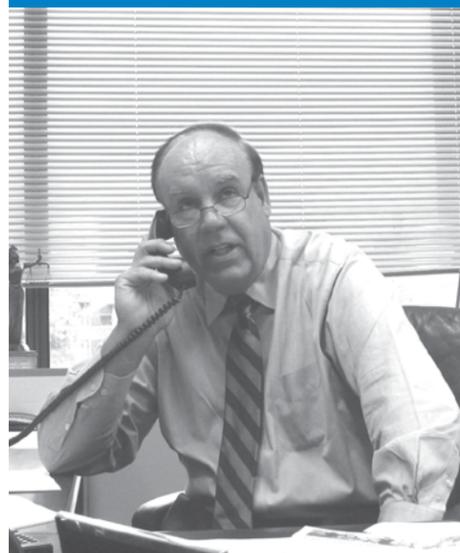
Balancing the budget isn't our only success. This report highlights legislation important to you. First, our highest priority was job creation and retention. Second, we saved taxpayer dollars by encouraging innovative approaches to regionalizing services. Some of our other legislative advances include; electric rate reform, education enhancements, health insurance reform and help for veterans, the environment and domestic violence victims.

I hope you find this report informative. I'm happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state this year. Together we can work to create a better future for our friends and families.

State Representative

Stephen D. Dargan

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

State Representative
Stephen D. Dargan

Capitol 800.842.8267

Email stephen.dargan@cga.ct.gov

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CAPITOL
—REPORT 2011

PUBLIC SAFETY

A Safer Connecticut

We strengthened Connecticut's criminal justice system by cracking down on repeat drunk drivers, making it easier to match DNA evidence to help solve crimes and strengthening our domestic violence laws.

Reducing Domestic Violence

Considering about 30 percent of the state's criminal court dockets involve domestic violence, finding new ways to reduce its occurrence 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 victims' access to support services
- Providing police with more tools to protect communities
- Requiring the judicial branch to recommend long-term solutions

To further protect victims, reforms were made to the bail bond process that eliminate "undercutting," which occurs when bondsmen compete for business by discounting the bond premium by not charging clients the statutorily required amount. As a result, defendants post bond more easily and are quickly released back into the community without any "cooling off" period.



Health Care

Affordable Health Insurance

The state is now closer to the goal of guaranteeing affordable health insurance for all Connecticut residents. The legislature:

- Opened the state employee healthcare plan to municipal employees and nonprofits
- Established the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange where individuals and companies with up to 50 employees can compare and purchase health insurance
- Required insurance coverage of MRIs for breast cancer screening if a woman is found to have "dense" breast tissue



Senior News

ConnPACE Eligibility: If you are a Connecticut resident age 65 or older, or with a disability age 18 or older, and you are NOT eligible for

Medicare, you may qualify for ConnPACE.

Helping Seniors

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

- Rejecting the Governor's proposal to significantly raise cost-sharing in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders
- Expanding the state's Money Follows the Person program
- Establishing Nursing Home Grievance Committees at each facility

In addition, grandparent's rights will be the subject of a special study aimed at enhancing their ability to seek visitation rights.

I am proud to support these and other services for our senior citizens.



Ensuring the Safety of Connecticut's Children

Protecting the Lives of Connecticut's Children

We can't forget that children need our help in emergency situations which is why we amended the state's civil preparedness plan to include day care centers and activities focusing on children and youth.

The bill requires:

- Children's evacuation and removal to a safe location
- Parents to be notified
- Reunification of parents with their children
- Care for children with special needs

Keeping Kids Safe

Background checks on all public school job applicants will become mandatory and laws about reporting and investigating cases of abuse or neglect have been expanded.

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
- Provide disabled wartime veterans with free parking, admission, and boat access parking to state recreational areas
- Expand the waiver of property tax interest for certain armed forces members in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Waive the \$20 fee for one certified copy of a veteran's death certificate when requested by family
- Create a one-stop website for services available for veterans

