

Bringing Home YOUR Tax Dollars

STATE DOLLARS TO NEW HAVEN FY2009*

New Education Dollars to New Haven

Education

ECS (Ed. Cost Sharing)	\$6,006,149
School Readiness	\$56,468
Special Education	\$202,000

Total New \$\$ Education = \$6,264,617

*Excludes school construction.

The University of New Haven Science and Engineering magnet request by the city was approved for a state cost of \$56.5 million, 95% state funding.

State PILOT for Colleges and Hospitals*

New Haven PILOT 2009	(1,402,417)
Total PILOT College Hospital 2009	\$37,306,120

* PILOT is tied to the city mil rate. The mil rate dropped a year ago with revaluation, reducing PILOT. Although the Appropriations Committee restored these dollars, the Appropriations budget was not adopted.

\$20 million statewide Early Reading Success program, over \$2 million to New Haven, was cut in the 2009 budget.

**Net Increase state operating dollars to New Haven*
\$2,073,514**

The 2008 state budget included increases in real dollars to New Haven. The 2009 state budget adds slight increases for education, and a slight cut in PILOT. Unlike education dollars, use of PILOT dollars is discretionary for the city.

* still being calculated

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2008 Legislative Bulletin

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State Representative PATRICIA DILLON

Serving New Haven's 92nd District

Dear friend and neighbor,

We accomplished much, with much left to do.

Year one expanded aid to towns and access to health care and higher education.

Year two preserved our gains and protected the public.

Events in late 2007 had altered the agenda and our response was clear and strong.

First, the Cheshire murders exposed gaps in criminal justice. We reformed that system.

Second, the weak economy dominated and foreclosures rose. We set up foreclosure relief.

Third, the war in Iraq has caused public health problems and drives up state personnel costs. Half of the soldiers serving are state National Guard and reserves, including state employees. In 2007 their deployment cost taxpayers over \$2 million in overtime. Today's army is also diverse, with more people of color and single moms.

Due to poor planning in the Department of Defense, many soldiers return lacking access to the care they need. Shockingly, for well over a year, federal officials failed to sign up some returning soldiers for disability benefits. Many appear in emergency rooms and homeless shelters. We are working to bring them into systems of care.

The legislature responded to emerging problems but did not fix the property tax. True, high property taxes are partly driven by local spending, but the state can help. One remedy proposed this year required new taxes, so legislators were cautious, but we are planning for the future.

This year, you contacted me on crime, taxes, traffic safety and the environment.

You identified problems, researched solutions and convened meetings to call us to account.

Thank you for your hard work and support.



Battening Down The Hatches: Preserving Our Gains, Protecting the Public, Planning for the Future



Preserving Access to Health Care

Prenatal Care for Pregnant Women

Prenatal care is critical for healthy newborns. The legislature granted presumptive eligibility to pregnant women who are Medicaid eligible to reduce delays in care to expectant mothers and their babies. PA 08-68

Minority Health Advisory Commission

Health disparities result in premature babies and poor prospects for seniors with heart disease. Teamwork by New Haven leaders helped establish a Commission on Health Equity to bring community and scientists together to reduce disparities. PA 08-171

Money Follows the Person

In the past, institutional care was the option for elderly or disabled Medicaid recipients. This year the legislature increased to 5,000 those who may remain at home with their families. PA 08-180

The Connecticut Healthcare Partnership (Governor Vetoed)

Municipalities, small businesses and non-profits could save on health benefits for their employees if they join the state employee health insurance plan, creating a large pool of insureds. Increased bargaining power and lower costs – save money.



Protecting Our Homes

The mortgage crisis collapsed a Wall Street firm this year. Over 4,000 homes in New Haven have subprime loans.

The legislature created and funded a \$21 million mortgage assistance program within the Department of Economic and Community Development, and a right to appeal to the Banking Commissioner for a six-month moratorium on bank action. PA 08-176

Protecting the Environment

Connecticut Global Warming Solutions

The General Assembly enacted landmark global warming legislation that establishes mandatory greenhouse gas emission caps of 10% below 1990 levels that must be attained by 2020, and 80% below 2001 levels by 2050. Further, low-carbon fuel standards are required for all motor vehicle and home heating fuels sold in the state. The State Building Code will be revised to reflect stringent energy standards. PA 08-98

Protecting New Haven Programs

Last year's new initiatives retain second year funding. Other nonprofits are funded, but lack the cost of living adjustment they requested.

The State Bond Commission approved the final \$1 million of Neighborhood Music School improvements.

Relief for homes in Beverly Hills is authorized in the bond act. However, our first proposal required appropriations, so I am working with leaders to use only bonding.

Protecting the State Budget

Rainy Day Fund

When stock market losses in 2002 sliced state revenue from the income tax by 39%, it caused hardship for state employees, providers and towns.

To mitigate shocks, we increased the budget reserve (Rainy Day) fund from 7.5% to 10% and set aside a portion of surpluses since 2003 to cushion future downturns.

Legislative Pay

When state revenues flattened in January, we put proposed legislative raises on hold.

Biennial Budget

When revenues dropped further, the Governor and leaders agreed not to increase the rise in spending, which would have required increasing state taxes.

