

2011 Legislative Preview

As we face a challenging budget year, I am grateful for your confidence, hopeful that we will solve problems together, and proud of the civic community we have built together.

There is news since my last letter to you, because my legislative work continued beyond the regular legislative session until the New Year.

After the November elections, I set to work and successfully secured dollars to repair damaged homes in the West River / Beverly Hills area. Your hard work and testimony in Hartford made the case. In coming months, we will be working to develop a procedure to administer that new initiative.

I am committed to efficient government that protects both the vulnerable and local taxpayers. In this budget, we will face difficult choices. But with your input and support, we can preserve our quality of life and strengthen our community.

Thank you, and best wishes for this coming year.

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STATE BUDGET

The fiscal crisis that has affected many Connecticut families has also weakened the state's finances. As a result, we are left with a looming budget deficit that must be addressed this session.

We need to find cuts and savings in government programs without losing the safety net of services that Connecticut families depend upon. I am confident we can accomplish that this session.

EDUCATION

Education is the greatest tool we can give our children to prepare them for the future.

This session we will look at our state's educational system and determine if changes can be made that benefit students and improve the quality of learning in our schools. With some creative thinking and a new perspective, we can make sure that the children of Connecticut have all the tools they need to succeed.

HEALTH CARE

Health care has become increasingly expensive and unattainable for far too many Connecticut residents.

This year, we will continue working to prepare Connecticut for implementation of the new federal health care system passed in 2009. The Connecticut SUSTINET commission has been instructed to draft recommendations to aid this effort.



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