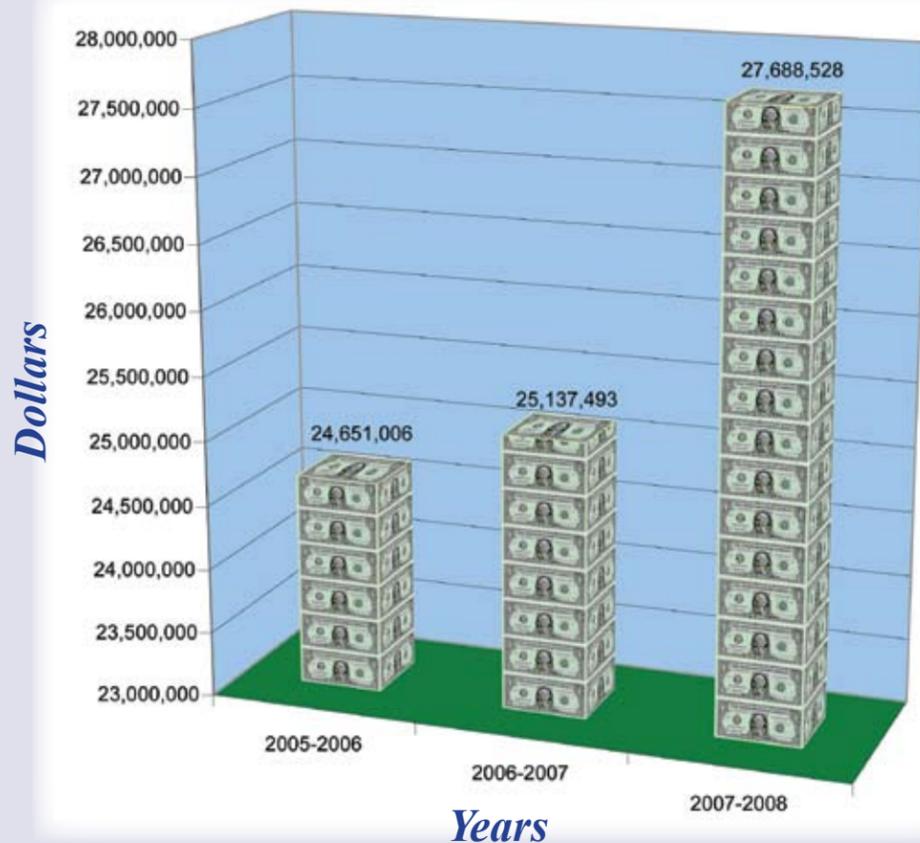


## Bringing Home YOUR Tax Dollars 2007-08



Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$ 683,353
Town Aid Road Grant	\$ 292,493
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 1,431,919
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$ 284,280
School Transportation	\$ 442,913
Adult Education	\$ 169,575
Other State Grants	\$ 3,409,516
Education Cost Sharing	\$ 20,974,479
<b>Increase over 2006</b>	<b>\$ 2,551,035</b>
<b>Grand Total of Money in 2007</b>	<b>\$ 27,688,528</b>

### Money BROUGHT BACK To The 104th District



State Representative  
**Linda M. Gentile**

Capitol: 860-240-8522  
Toll Free: 1-800-842-8267  
E-mail: [Linda.Gentile@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Linda.Gentile@cga.ct.gov)

**Ansonia • Derby**

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State Representative  
**Linda M. Gentile**  
2007 Legislative Report

Dear Friend:

Our legislative business for the year is almost finished. We did need a special session to pass the state's budget, and we are currently negotiating a transportation and bonding budget. Hopefully, our work will be concluded soon.

Although the session was hectic, we addressed many important issues, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter.

In addition to these issues, the budget that passed provides significant increases in dollars for the cities of Ansonia and Derby--bringing home your tax dollars.

Although I am disappointed that Governor Rell vetoed the legislation I supported that would have provided working families with a substantial tax break, I am happy to report that there were NO substantial increases in taxes and the \$500 property tax deduction still remains in place.

Your letters, e-mail, and phone calls continue to provide insight and allow me to understand your concerns. With your input, I will continue to fight for a better quality of life for the people in the 104<sup>th</sup> District.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and for the honor and privilege of serving you in Hartford.

Sincerely,

*Linda*

### CLIP AND SAVE!

Important Telephone Numbers	
ConnPACE	1-800-423-5026
Medicare Hotline	1-800-633-4227
CT Partnership for Long-Term Care	1-800-547-3443
Commission on Aging	1-860-240-5200
Medicare Advocacy	1-800-262-4414
Connecticut Legal Assistance	1-800-413-7796
New Car "Lemons"	1-860-713-6120
Consumer Protection	1-800-842-2649
Tax Department	1-800-382-9463
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1-800-833-7318

104th Assembly District  
Ansonia • Derby



## Budget

### Highlights

- **INCREASES** town aid by \$221.3 million for the upcoming fiscal year and provides an additional \$131.5 million for FY 09.
- **INCREASES** health care funding by \$336 million over the next two years.
- **PROVIDES** about \$1 billion to pay down long term debt, pay off bonds, and increase the balance in the state's 'rainy day' reserve fund.
- **PROVIDES** \$39 million to nursing homes for a 2.9% increase for this fiscal year and a 3% increase for non-profit organizations for this fiscal year.



## Economic Development

### Connecticut's Film Industry



Recently, my colleagues and I passed an exciting film tax credit bill. The bill was created to further expand Connecticut's film and media industries. It will bring more money into our state and foster job growth. It is expected to create a top notch work force to work in the film industry by offering three types of training programs available to residents and/or students. The three types of training programs are:

- An unpaid internship training program for high school and college students.
- A production assistant training program open to any state resident.
- A workforce training program that would include classroom training, on-set training, and a mentor program. PA 07-236

### Eminent Domain

I worked to overhaul Connecticut's eminent domain laws this past session. The taking of one's personal property will now face a number of new hurdles before approval can be granted. New protections for property owners include:

- Mandatory public hearings.
- Two-thirds approval by the local legislative body.
- Two independent appraisals and compensation paid at 125% of property value.
- Any and all takings/seizures of property subject to a 10 year deadline.



## Children

### School Bus Emissions

School buses are a necessity in order to keep our educational system running and our children safe. I sponsored legislation that responds to both of these issues and provides the funding necessary to cover the cost of this safety initiative.

- Existing full-sized school buses will be retrofitted with new emissions systems to reduce harmful pollution emissions.
- Any new full-sized school bus will be required to meet federal EPA standards, or use natural gas or another alternative fuel.
- This new law will reduce soot emissions by 85%.



### Healthy Children

The Healthy Kids work group, a collaboration of legislators, health care professionals, child advocates, business representatives, and I worked to ensure that all children in Connecticut have access to health care services by making improvements to the state's HUSKY plan.

- Uninsured newborns will be automatically enrolled upon birth and will be covered for the first four months of life.
- Outreach programs will be available under the Medicaid program.
- Eligibility for parents of HUSKY enrolled children will be increased.
- Improvements will be made to the health system itself, so that health professionals can provide better services to patients.



## Seniors

### Long-Term Care

Connecticut has launched a new website for those needing more information regarding long-term care. To find out more about your options, you can access the website at [www.ct.gov/longtermcare](http://www.ct.gov/longtermcare), or by calling Infoline at 2-1-1. Please note:

- Long-term care can be provided in adult day care centers, assisted living facilities, or in one's own home.
- Services are available to help people perform daily tasks such as eating, dressing, or bathing, or tasks needed for independent living such as shopping, managing finances, or housecleaning.



### Senior Driving Insurance Discount

As of October 1st, drivers age 60 and over will be eligible for an automobile insurance policy premium discount after successfully completing a Department of Motor Vehicles approved accident prevention course. For more information contact AARP at 1-888-227-7669.

## Education

### Funding Our Teachers' Retirement--Saving You Money

I am proud to report that this session my colleagues and I took steps to shore up the finances of the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Fund (TRF) and ultimately **SAVE** taxpayers an estimated \$2.8 billion over 25 years.

It does so by the sale of \$2 billion in new pension obligation bonds (POBs). The debt from the POB sales will cost far less than the rate the state is being charged on the current \$6.9 billion unfunded liability.

This transaction is similar to refinancing your mortgage at a more favorable interest rate.



### Fixing The Education Cost Sharing Formula

The Education Cost Sharing Foundation was increased from \$5,891 to \$9,687 per student, thus **INCREASING** the Education Cost Sharing grant to Ansonia and Derby by **\$2,070,569** from last year's budget.

### Improving College Accessibility

In order to make college more accessible, we have taken the necessary steps to help Connecticut residents more easily afford college by:

- Adding \$27.2 million over two years for financial awards to students attending public colleges.
- Adding \$16.2 million over two years for financial awards to students attending private colleges.



## Veterans

### Service Bonus For Connecticut Guardsmen



In order to recognize our brave service men and women who are performing second tours in combat zones, the General Assembly has increased the service bonus cap for National Guardsmen called to active service. Now, Guardsmen can receive a maximum cap of \$1200, rather than the previously established \$500 cap, to supplement their second tour of duty.

### Eligibility For State Veterans' Cemeteries



In an effort to better recognize those who protect our freedoms every day, the legislature extended burial privileges in our veterans' cemeteries to Connecticut National Guard members. Now, Connecticut National Guard members who have completed at least twenty years of guard service and were killed in action, or died as a result of an accident or illness while in active service, will qualify, as well as one spouse.