



Bob leads a "pop quiz" about state government during South Street School's visit to the State Capitol.

## Education Reform

### *Closing the Gap*

I'm so proud - we all are - of the Crouch quadruplets: four graduates of Danbury High School on their way to Yale. Danbury High School is a great place for high achievement.

I'm sad that not all students are high achievers. Indeed, the difference in the achievement levels among students in Connecticut schools is one of the highest in the nation. We took steps to help turn around schools with many low achieving students, to increase our eligibility for federal education dollars, and to improve our vocational high schools - including Henry Abbot Tech in Danbury.

Public Act 10-111 highlights:

- » Strengthens the state's eligibility for federal 'Race to the Top' education funds
- » Ties teacher evaluations to multiple indicators for student growth
- » Creates a statewide accountability plan
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- » Increases parent involvement, including two, not one, parent-teacher conference a year
- » Adds members with manufacturing and vocational education experience to the state Board of Education
- » Requires school boards to create parent-based school governance councils in schools with high levels of low achievers.

Let's close the gap.

State Representative  
**BOB GODFREY**

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**Bob Godfrey**  
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State Representative

# Bob Godfrey

## CAPITOL NEWS 2010



Dear Neighbor,

I'm still an optimist. As we exit the Great Recession, I see opportunity to shape the future to our mutual benefit.

You and our neighbors have been a great help to me. The responses to my annual constituent survey shaped my votes during the last regular session of the General Assembly. I protected the services you expect, while avoiding tax increases on middle and working class families. You guided my vote on the budget, balanced and on time, which I'm reporting to you separately. There will be greater challenges in the near future, and I will rely on your help again.

But 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 save taxpayer dollars through regional innovation. In addition, education reform, health insurance reform, help for veterans, the environment and domestic violence legislation are some of the other successes.

I hope this report is informative. I'm happy to answer any questions about these issues or any other facing our state this year. Together we can work to create a better future for our friends and families. Don't hesitate to contact me.

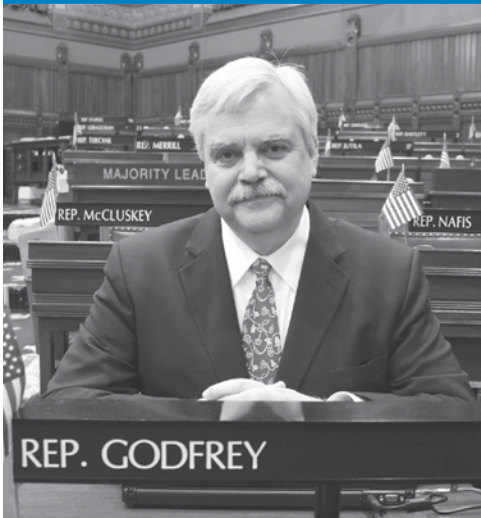
Sincerely,

Bob Godfrey



# Bob Godfrey

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

**State Representative  
Bob Godfrey**

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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 (PA 10-87) 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 (PA 10-39)
- » Honorably discharged retired veterans with 30 years or more of service can now apply for “retirement promotions” and move up one grade in rank (PA 10-15)
- » 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 (PA 10-16)
- » March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day (PA 10-40)
- » Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses (PA 10-105)
- » Veterans can apply for the Connecticut war time service medal recognizing their military service (PA 05-3)

## 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. Public Act 10-144 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



Bob is greeted by WCSU students, David Strout, James Fraguella and his wife, Tram Anh Fraguella during Academic Day.



Bob speaks with Danbury’s Tony Rizzo during Italian Republic Day at the Capitol.

## Creating Jobs

### Our Number One Priority

We passed a significant new jobs bill (PA10-75) that will help put Connecticut on the road to economic recovery with:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small businesses and nonprofits
- » Student loan reimbursement for careers in new and emerging fields
- » Income tax credits for investments in new technology businesses
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month per new employee
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » A Community-Technical College advisory board to assess the training needs of unemployed residents.
- » Better environmental rules to speed up business permitting process



Reps. Godfrey and Lyddy receive the 2010 Children’s Champions Award for Western Connecticut at the State Capitol.

## Regionalism Saving Taxpayer Dollars

### School Transportation

Every town in the state can now save taxpayers’ money on their school transportation costs.

- » A new grant (PA 10-83) is available for boards of education from multiple towns that provide transportation services together

## Saving on Health Insurance

Cities and towns can now save taxpayers’ money by sharing health insurance plans (PA 10-174).

- » 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
- » Municipalities can pay less for prescription drugs through state discounts. The bargaining power, low administrative costs, and volume discounts negotiated by the state will save cities and towns money



Danbury Police Explorers pose with Reps. Taborsak, Giegler, and Godfrey outside the House Chamber.

## 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 (PA 10-131)
  - » Requires insurance companies to disclose denial rates so consumers can compare the quality of different plans (PA 10-24)
  - » Extends state COBRA coverage from 18 to 30 months so laid off employees can keep their health insurance as they look for new jobs (PA 10-13)
  - » Requires insurance companies to refer consumers to the state Office of the Health Care Advocate for assistance with denials of coverage (PA 10-24)
  - » Improves coverage for chemotherapy patients (PA 10-63)
  - » Requires the SustiNet Board of Directors to present their plan for health reform that would guarantee coverage to all state residents while slowing the unsustainable growth in health care costs. (PA 09-148)

State Representative

## BOB GODFREY

To receive more information on any of the following issues, e-mail, call or mail me the completed form. Make sure to give your name, address and email, and indicate which issues you’re interested in.

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2010 Major Acts  | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business         | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care      | <input type="checkbox"/> Children  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment      | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |

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