

*State Aid for Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield*

**Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Aid**

PILOT: State Owned Property	\$1,488,922
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$1,895,383
Town Aid Roads	\$575,424
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$513,153
School Transportation	\$402,203
Adult Education	\$65,474
Educational Grant Funding	\$11,607,548
<b>Total State Funds to Rocky Hill, Wethersfield &amp; Newington</b>	<b>\$24,006,264</b>

*Contact Me for Your Copy of 2011 Major Acts Reports*

The following reports provide brief highlights of new laws affecting different issue areas enacted during the 2011 regular session and are available online at: [www.cga.ct.gov/olr/actsaffecting.asp](http://www.cga.ct.gov/olr/actsaffecting.asp) or call me for a printed copy.

- » Transportation
- » Health Professions
- » Veterans and the Military
- » Seniors
- » Taxes
- » Insurance
- » Real Estate
- » Business
- » Education
- » Environment
- » Firefighters
- » Criminal Justice
- » Agriculture
- » Housing
- » Town Clerks

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Tony Guerrero  
Chair, Transportation Committee



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**Connecticut's Use for Tolls to Fund Roads and Bridges**

Rep. Guerrero on the advantages tolls would have for Connecticut's transportation infrastructure.

**Transportation Bills**

Rep. Guerrero sums up the work of the Transportation Committee and the positive effect the new laws will have.

State Representative

**Antonio "Tony" Guerrero**

Proudly Serving Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield | 29<sup>th</sup> District

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

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**CAPITOL REPORT 2011**

State Representative

**Antonio "Tony" Guerrero**

Proudly Serving Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield | 29<sup>th</sup> District

Dear Friends,

The 2011 Session was eventful. Difficult economic times made the budget process a tough one. While there were parts of the final state budget I do not agree with, we made the hard decisions to create a responsible budget that kept property taxes down by preserving important state aid to cities and towns.

We also took tremendous steps forward in job creation. A massive expansion of the UConn Health Center will create hundreds of construction jobs and eventually establish Connecticut as the preeminent medical research state in the country. The "First Five" program will grant incentives to Connecticut companies that expand as well as companies that relocate to the state and create jobs.

While job creation and getting our fiscal house in order were my top priorities, the legislature was able to pass many other important laws this year that will benefit Connecticut families. Many of these new laws are detailed in this newsletter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season,

# Antonio “Tony” Guerrera

Proudly Serving Rocky Hill, Newington and Wethersfield | 29<sup>th</sup> District



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

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Guerrera](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Guerrera)

## CAPITOL REPORT 2011

### *Growing New Businesses & Creating Jobs in Connecticut*

After listening to business leaders, economists, venture capitalists and others, the legislature took a number of steps to make Connecticut a leader in emerging growth industries that offer good jobs. An Act Concerning the Continuance of the Majority Leaders’ Job Growth Roundtable contains incentives for entrepreneurship and innovation, infrastructure, and education, including:

- » Student loan reimbursements for green technology degrees *PA 11-140*
- » Expanded tax credits, property tax exemptions and grants for investing in business growth *PA 11-78*
- » A manufacturing reinvestment fund for tax preferred purchase of machinery, equipment, and facilities to enable small manufacturers to grow *PA 11-78*
- » An innovation network that increases corporate-sponsored research and establishes an innovation accelerator linking universities to start-up technology companies. This will strengthen technology transfers and entrepreneurship activities at UConn, and link angel investors to incubators *PA 11-140*

Rep. Guerrera was presented with CIAO’s Ambassador Reward by Italian Consul Laura Aghilarte for his many contributions to Connecticut’s Italian Americans earlier this year.



### *Creating An Airport Authority*

This law moves administration of Bradley International Airport and the state’s five smaller airports (Killingly, Groton, Hartford, Oxford and Windham) from the state Department of Transportation to a public-private authority. By enabling these airports to operate under a leadership structure that is flexible, they will become economic engines for the regions they serve. *PA 11-84*

### *Connecticut’s Energy Future*

We helped lower energy costs and your electric rates while moving the state toward clean and efficient energy. By creating the new Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), we now have a single state agency focused on energy issues. The law seeks to help create industries, jobs and businesses necessary to support a clean energy economy for the future. *PA 11-80*

### *Brownfield Remediation Creates Jobs*

I am pleased to have co-sponsored a new law that could be one of the most important job generators in Connecticut. We funded clean up and re-use of “brownfields”-contaminated and long abandoned properties that can be remediated and turned into productive and safe sites for economic development, open space or other public uses. *PA 11-141*

### *CT Deep Water Port Economic Development*

Four state agencies – the Department of Economic and Community Development; the Department of Transportation; the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and the Office of Policy and Management – are working together on a long-term plan for economic development of Connecticut’s deep water ports, including a focused effort at growing maritime industry jobs. Earlier this year, legislation passed requiring the state to develop a strategy for economic development of the ports in New Haven, New London and Bridgeport. In October, the state issued a request-for-proposals (RFP) for these services, with a specific focus on generating strategic initiatives and detailed action plans it can use in developing and marketing the ports. *PA 11-57*

### *Foreclosure Assistance*

Changes to the state’s foreclosure programs and laws include (1) extending the foreclosure mediation program by two years, (2) extending its services to properties owned by religious organizations, (3) adopting the federal Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act, and (4) extending its protections three years beyond the federal act’s sunset date. *PA 11-201*

### *Saluting Our Veterans*

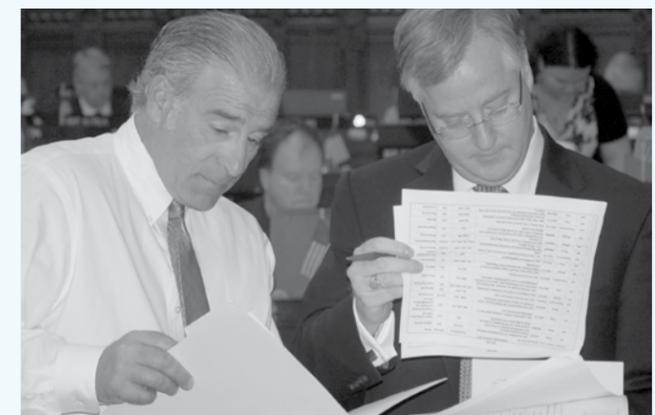
Veterans, along with their families, have sacrificed so much so we can enjoy our freedom and a democratic way of life. Veterans returning from foreign engagements need to know that we appreciate what they do for us and that means passing legislation that helps them and their families.

Veterans’ bills passed this session:

- » Offer veterans’ license plates to a member of the U. S. armed forces or his or her surviving spouse *PA 11-56*
- » Allow veteran status to be on a driver’s license or identity card *PA 11-56*
- » Provide disabled wartime veterans with free parking, admission, and boat access parking to state recreational areas *PA 11-3*
- » Expand the waiver of property tax interest for certain armed forces members in Iraq and Afghanistan *PA 11-62*

### *Ignition Interlocks*

The period of license suspension for motorists convicted for a first or second time of driving under the influence (DUI) has been reduced to 45 days. However, as a condition of restoring a license, offenders are required to install a functioning, approved ignition interlock device on each vehicle they own or operate. *PA 11-48*



Rep. Guerrera discusses legislation with Majority Leader Brendan Sharkey

### *Better Health Care Access & Affordability*

Health care benefits can be one of the largest expenses faced by individuals and employers. We combined two major health care reforms to protect and increase access to quality, affordable health care.

- » The Connecticut Health Care Partnership offers the state health insurance coverage to municipalities and to non-profit organizations. When municipalities save money on health care, those savings can help keep local property taxes down *PA 11-53*
- » In addition, better health care delivery will be attained for individuals and groups through a comprehensive plan for a state-wide health care delivery system that also leverages the state health plan pool to contain costs and promote preventive care *PA 11-58*

