



Dear Neighbor:

I'm pleased to share with you some of the highlights of the 2013 legislative session. Our focus at the beginning of the session was on the development of the strongest gun safety law in the nation. This comprehensive bill also strengthened school safety and improved access to mental health care. In the second half of the session, we focused on the state's budget by carrying out our commitment to maintain assistance to cities and towns without enacting any new taxes.

We invested in our flagship university, gave seniors a choice in their long-term care through "Aging in Place," assisted struggling homeowners by improving the foreclosure mediation process, and increased funding for affordable housing.

We responded to the damage done by severe storms Sandy and Irene by extending our commitment to consumer protection. We adopted meaningful legislation to prohibit price gouging during severe weather events. If a seller of merchandise or services charges an excessive price during any severe weather event, the seller will be committing an unfair trade practice and will be subject to strong consumer protection laws.

It's my honor to serve you. Please contact me or my office with any concerns you might have or for any information you might need. Together, we can create a brighter and better future for our citizens, our families, and our businesses.

Sincerely,

Antonio "Tony" Guerrero
State Representative

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Antonio "Tony" Guerrero

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JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The General Assembly responded positively to cuts in federal spending and the development of new technologies that are changing the way we live and work. We reactivated the Economic Development Advisory Commission, renamed it the Commission on Connecticut's Future, and charged it with taking the lead in modernizing the state's manufacturing base. The Commission will develop recommendations to diversify the state's defense businesses, help them switch to consumer-oriented production, and ensure that Connecticut's colleges and universities are preparing students for jobs in the manufacturing sector.

We passed several bills to help small businesses and grow good jobs. We moved \$20 million of state funds into the already-successful Small Business Express Program to give employers the help they so desperately need in these tough economic times. Just as important, we adopted legislation to make our state more economically competitive by convening the Commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies, and we created a Comprehensive Energy Strategy to make Connecticut more energy-efficient and cost-effective.

THE SAFETY OF WORKERS IN ROADWAY WORK ZONES

Construction and repairs on Connecticut's roads are inevitable, and it is important that we protect employees who are working close to vehicle traffic. Stiffer penalties await drivers who violate highway work zone laws. The law doubles the penalty for drivers who use hand-held cell phones in a highway work zone and requires violators of the highway work zone safety law to attend a driver retraining program. It creates a work zone safety account that will be used for highway traffic enforcement. Tests for drivers' licenses now require knowledge of how to drive in a highway work zone.



DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracted driving - especially the use of cell phones while driving - is an increasingly common complaint. We addressed distracted driving while also making changes to several motor vehicle statutes. Fines are increased for using a hand-held cell phone or other electronic device while driving: A first offense for distracted driving is now \$150, the second offense is \$300 and a third offense and subsequent offenses are now \$500. These violations will now appear on the offender's driving history and will be made available to insurers. A task force is also being created to study how to prevent distracted driving.

RESTORING BENEFITS TO VETERANS DISCHARGED UNDER "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

Discrimination against veterans on any level, including sexual orientation, cannot be tolerated. We restored state benefits to military veterans who were previously denied federal benefits based solely on their sexual orientation, due to federal policy prohibiting homosexuals from serving in the armed forces, which has since been repealed.

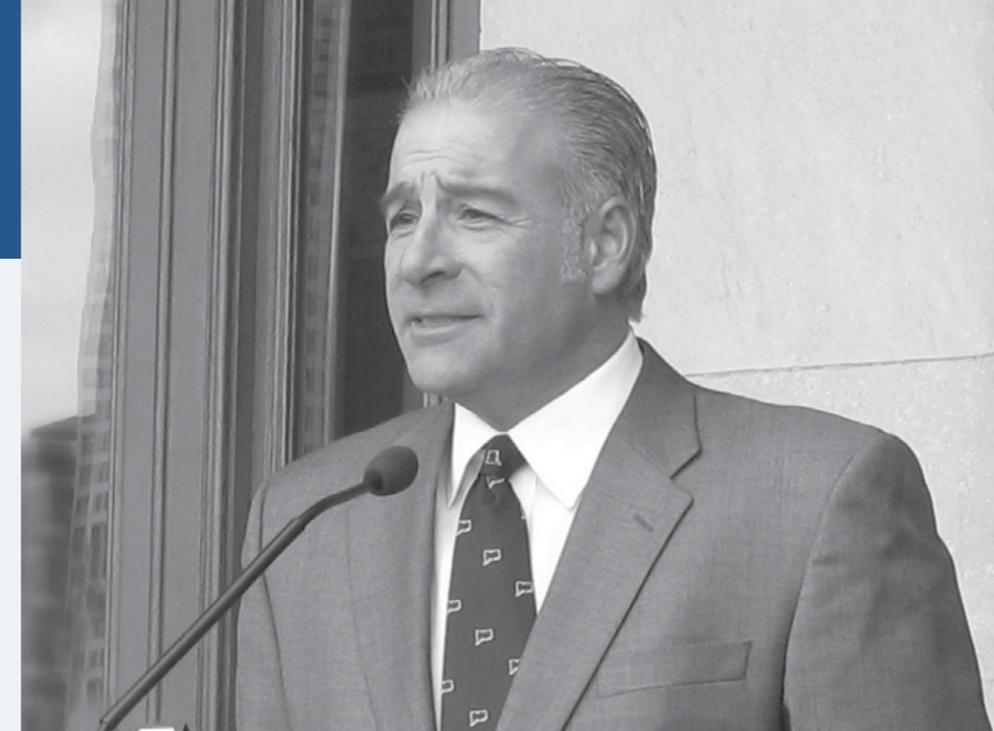
ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL OPTION PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS

Connecticut's veterans fought and served to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today. It is important to recognize their service and make sure that they are looked after once they return home. Previously, disabled veterans received an exemption of up to \$6,000 on their property taxes if their income, excluding veteran's benefits, was less than \$18,000 if single, or \$21,000 if married. Municipalities are now able to increase this exemption to \$9,000 if they so choose. Municipalities will be reimbursed by the state for any lost revenue due to these exemptions for disabled veterans.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

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DISTRICT NEWS

- \$460,000 in state bond funds have been made available to provide a grant-in-aid to the town of Newington to assist with costs associated with the closure of its bulky waste disposal area.
- \$2,850,000 in state bond funds were made available to the town of Rocky Hill for renovation and repairs to the new CREC Academy of Aerospace and Engineering Elementary School.
- The Department of Transportation Facilities Program has scheduled \$14.3 million to be spent on construction of new maintenance facilities, including renovations of existing facilities in Wethersfield.

STATE AID FOR ROCKY HILL, NEWINGTON, WETHERSFIELD FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014

PILOT: State Owned Property	\$1,469,598
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$774,062
Town Aid Roads	\$1,161,682
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$1,255,490
School Transportation	\$367,698
Adult Education	\$77,407
Education Cost Sharing	\$24,846,253

Total State Funds Rocky Hill, Wethersfield and Newington **\$29,952,190**