

A Balanced Budget

– On Time and On Target

Partnering with Governor Rell, we balanced the state's budget – on time and without any tax increases. The budget contains no cuts in municipal aid funds and a \$60 average decrease in electric bills for many residents.



This year's budget bill included \$163 million in additional spending cuts across a host of state agencies and a reduction of \$300 million from a previous borrowing plan.

The spending cuts are deep, but necessary. Thankfully, we protected the services critically important to Bridgeport, including:

- » \$20,591,414 in Town aid funding.
- » \$168,252,769 in Education funding.
- » Funding for programs that assist seniors and the disabled
- » Funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses

We also provided a helping hand, through:

- » Guaranteeing an average 60 percent reduction to a fee on your electric bill
- » \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
- » Funding for programs that help prevent mortgage foreclosure

Additional good news for state residents this summer:

- » We reduced last year's increase on state park fees and fishing/hunting licenses

We erased a \$10 billion deficit, balancing the budget on time and on target.

Bridgeport Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Aid

PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,901,662
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$8,909,623
Town Aid Roads	\$665,532
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$2,004,673
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$6,109,924
Adult Education	\$1,298,900
School Transportation	\$2,758,525
Educational Cost Sharing	\$164,195,344
Total State Funds to Bridgeport	\$188,844,183

State Representative

JACK HENNESSY

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

Jack Hennessy

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Capitol Update

The 2010 legislative session has been one of both challenge and compromise as we worked to address the state budget deficiency. In the end, we saw real results as legislative leadership and the Governor worked together to craft a sound, responsible and fair state budget. I am proud that we were able to work together, across party lines, to create a compromise and close the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years with no deficit and a balanced budget that avoided both devastating cuts to services and widespread tax increases.

As we look ahead to the future, fiscal challenges remain. While I am truly optimistic about Connecticut's economic recovery, I remain realistic about the absolute necessity to prevent wasteful spending, limit borrowing and keep taxes in check. I will continue to work towards those goals as your voice in the State Capitol.



State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

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

State Representative
Jack Hennessy

Capitol Phone 800-842-8267

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CT Homeowners

Protecting Homeowners in Tough Times

The state's foreclosure mediation program prohibits banks from continuing to charge homeowners late fees if banks do not show up for mediation sessions or arrive unprepared.

The mediation program is paid through the state Department of Banking and we are now extending it until 2012.

Saluting Our Veterans

- » Veterans in nursing homes can now use the VA as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers
- » Honorably discharged retired veterans with 30 years or more of service can now apply for "retirement promotions" and move up one grade in rank
- » 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
- » March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day
- » Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses

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, which 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



"It's about the children" —Rep. Hennessy with Central High School on their visit to the Capitol

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
- » Requires insurance companies to disclose denial rates so consumers can compare the quality of different plans
- » Extends state COBRA coverage from 18 to 30 months so laid off employees can keep their health insurance as they look for new jobs
- » Requires insurance companies to refer consumers to the state Office of the Health Care Advocate for assistance with denials of coverage
- » Improves coverage for chemotherapy patients
- » Enhances patient safety by improving hospital reporting of medical errors

Good News for Seniors

Reducing Costs for Homecare Services

Seniors using the CT Homecare Program for Elders will soon see a reduction in their monthly costs for critical in-home services, such as meal deliveries and personal care assistance. The budget reduces the percentage seniors pay for these services from 15% to 6% -- saving the average client nearly \$100 each month.

Supporting Services for Alzheimer's Patients

Last year's budget protected the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program, which provides small grants to family members caring for people with Alzheimer's to fund personal care, home health and adult day care services. Governor Rell closed the program in 2009, but working with advocates, the legislature was able to re-open the program in May, allowing Connecticut families to receive these important services.

Improving the Senior Driver Discount Program

New legislation encourages seniors to keep their driving skills sharp by making it easier to qualify for safe driver discounts. People age 60 and older will now be able to complete a shorter, 4-hour driving program to be eligible for a two-year discount of 5% or more on their automobile insurance.



Protecting Seniors from the Medicaid Spend-Down

New legislation will help seniors protect their assets when their spouse needs to enter a nursing home. Under current law, the spouse remaining at home must spend down half of his or her assets in order to allow the ill spouse to qualify for Medicaid coverage. This year, we increased the asset cap, so that the couple can keep assets up to \$110,000 and still qualify the ill spouse for Medicaid.

Creating Jobs Number One Priority — Dig Out of the Recession

Working with the Governor, we passed a significant new jobs bill 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
- » Better environmental rules to speed up business permitting process

State Representative

JACK HENNESSY

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 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |

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