



Rep. Susan Johnson and supporters of Camp Horizon



Majority Leader Denise Merrill and Rep. Susan Johnson receive Children's Champion Awards from the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance

## A BALANCED BUDGET *for* CONNECTICUT

– *On Time and On Target*

By working hard and reaching across party lines to create a compromise, we were able to balance this year's state budget with:

- » No tax increases
- » No cuts in municipal aid or education funding (ECS)
- » Maintained funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses
- » Funding for dental care and prescriptions for seniors and the disabled
- » Lower co-pays for home care services by up to \$240/month (AARP endorsed)
- » A \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
- » Guaranteeing an average 60% reduction to a fee on your electric bill

## REDUCING, THE STATE'S INDEBTEDNESS

– *Significantly Lowered Bond Cap*

We created a first time historic compromise resulting in unanimously approving legislation that eliminates \$422 million in previously authorized state borrowing.

This unprecedented reduction of millions in state bonding proves to the bond markets and our citizens we can tighten our fiscal belts by removing unnecessary borrowing requests while keeping key projects worthy of future investment intact.

The reduction represents a 22 percent decrease for previously planned borrowing projects. The cancelation of this borrowing will keep the state below the bonding cap, preserve the state's standing with credit rating agencies, and control future debt for the state.

I am proud to have been a part of this major bonding reform which will contribute to fiscal prudence for the state of Connecticut.

*State's bonding liability lowered by \$422 million. A 22 percent decrease.*

State Representative  
**SUSAN JOHNSON**

sign up for email updates:  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Johnson](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Johnson)

find us on facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/CTHouseDemocrats](http://www.facebook.com/CTHouseDemocrats)



State Representative

# Susan Johnson

Proudly Serving Windham | 49<sup>th</sup> District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

Legislative Office Building  
Room 5007  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 800.842.8267  
Home: 860.423.2085  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Johnson](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Johnson)



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, balanced 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 a balanced budget that avoided both devastating cuts to services and widespread tax increases.

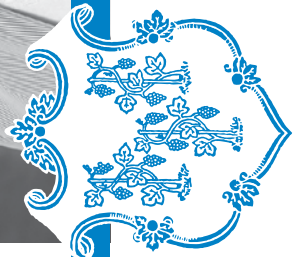
As we look ahead to the future, fiscal challenges remain. While I am truly optimistic about Connecticut's economic recovery, I remain realistic about the absolute necessity to prevent wasteful spending, limit borrowing and keep taxes in check. I will continue to work towards those goals as your voice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



State Representative

# Susan Johnson

Proudly Serving Windham | 49<sup>th</sup> District





# Susan Johnson

Proudly Serving Windham | 49<sup>th</sup> District



## Twenty-First Century School Reforms

### Vocational Schools

- » Requires each Vocational Technical School have its own budget which improves the transparency of the budget process (PA 10-111)
- » Improves the safety requirements for vocational technical school buses (PA 10-111)
- » Reinstates the Licensed Nursing Program (PA 10-111)
- » Requires a public hearing before vocational school closure (PA 10-111)

### Local Public Schools

- » Strengthens cooperation among parents, teachers and community members to facilitate improvements in Connecticut's "Race to the Top" application process (PA 10-111)
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools (PA 10-111)

## Municipal and Regional Efficiencies

I was pleased to serve on the MORE (Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies) Blue Ribbon Commission, which was charged with initiating a new approach to shared services that saves money at both the state and local level. The Commission concentrated on regional collective bargaining, local education, mandate relief, local revenue streams, state grants to municipalities and health care.

*The legislation:*

- » Allows multiple towns and Boards of Education to enter into joint health insurance plans (PA 10-174)
- » Allows a board of education to contract with at least one other board of education to provide school transportation. (PA 10-174)
- » Saves municipalities money by requiring state marshals, rather than town officials, be responsible for removing an evicted tenant's personal property and storing it in a storage facility designated by the town (PA 10-171)
- » Establishes a depreciation schedule for machinery and equipment owned by certain utility companies for property tax purposes (PA 10-171)
- » Stipulates meeting minutes of a municipal agency need not be posted on the internet in order to comply with the Freedom of Information Act (PA 10-171)

## Good News for Seniors

- » Reduced seniors' cost-share for the state-funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6%— saving up to \$240 per month (PA 10-179)
- » Re-opened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family caregivers (PA 10-179)
- » Protected seniors' assets when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid (PA 10-179)



## Great News Fee Rollback

New legislation requires the DEP Commissioner to offer a credit for anyone who bought sportmen's licenses, stamps, permits, or tags between October 1, 2009 and April 14, 2010. The credit is the difference between the amount paid and fee charged on or after October 1, 2010 and will be applied against the fee for any such license, permit, or tag bought on or after October 1, 2010. (PA 10-99)

## Improving Employment Opportunities

I am pleased to announce the passage of a comprehensive jobs legislation that offers incentives for employers, supports small businesses and emerging industries, provides resources for tuition and training, helps manufacturers find efficiencies and includes accountability measures to safeguard state taxpayer dollars. (PA 10-45)

Highlights of the bill:

- » Establishes a DECD Pilot Program helping Connecticut-based small manufacturers implement green technologies
- » Provides loan reimbursement and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- » Provides sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- » Provides 25% personal income tax credits for up to \$100,000 in angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green technology businesses
- » Establishes waste reduction task force to study reducing or eliminating duplicative procedures
- » Provides up to \$500,000 in loans and credit for small businesses and non profits
- » Provides tax credits and a cap of \$200 on insurance premiums for small businesses that create new jobs and employ Connecticut residents
- » Establishes a Community-Technical College advisory board to assess training needs of unemployed residents
- » Authorizes up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Authorizes \$1.3 million in bonds for mortgage crisis job training
- » Expands the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Commissioner's duties in technical assistance for exporting and manufacturing

## Saluting Our Veterans

- » Veterans in nursing homes can now use the US Department of Veterans Affairs as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers. (PA 10-39)
- » Retired senior members of the CT National Guard 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 serving 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)

## Legislative Wins for Windham

- » I brought approximately \$1.5 million to the Windham area to fund education and training programs for those who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assistance to enable this population to become economically self sufficient
- » I organized the Northeastern CT legislators to petition Governor Rell to add funding for the Eastern CT Fire School to the state's bond agenda. I will continue to work towards this important goal of preserving the Fire School for our first responders
- » I successfully advocated for Judicial Department funding to keep the Superior Courts for civil matters and juvenile matters open in Willimantic and also reopen our local law library
- » I obtained a commitment and funding from DOT Commissioner Marie to provide Rail Road Crossing Gates at the intersection of Route 203 and the Providence Worcester Rail Road crossing

## Environmental Reforms

Here in Windham, a group of dedicated individuals are committed to the goal of remediating the Windham Mills 4 property. I am very pleased to work with them and successfully authored legislation to protect municipal and non profit economic development agencies formed to promote the common good by allowing costs for liability insurance and directors' and officers' insurance to be reimbursed by the Urban Sites Remediation Fund. (PA 10-135)

Residents were very concerned last year about the ash landfill proposed by CRRA to be located on top of an aquifer on Windham's border with Franklin. In response to that serious environmental threat I co-sponsored legislation to require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to issue a written determination of need for an ash landfill before a state quasi-public agency can proceed with a physical inspection or evaluation of any parcel of land proposed to be used as the disposal area. (PA 10-140)



Rep. Susan Johnson and artist Kerri Quirk at the opening of Ms. Quirk's Art Gallery in Willimantic



Rep. Susan Johnson and students from Windham High School in the House of Representatives

## Windham Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Aid

PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,808,885
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$762,593
Town Aid Roads	\$180,821
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$220,269
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$881,117
Adult Education	\$272,707
School Transportation	\$550,857
Educational Grant Funding	\$29,487,759
<b>Total State Funds to the 49th District</b>	<b>\$35,165,008</b>