

Proudly Supporting Our Veterans

Veterans Job Match

Veterans Job Match is a new program offering unemployed veterans with manufacturing experience the opportunity to be matched with manufacturing or trade businesses looking for workers. To learn more and apply, please visit: www.ctdol.state.ct.us/VetJobMatch.htm. Questions? Contact Victoria Satagaj at vsatagaj@ccat.us or 860.282.4908.

Disabled Veteran Parks Pass

Lifetime park passes providing free admission to all state parks and forests are available free of charge to Connecticut veterans with a service connected disability. Veterans may apply in person at certain Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) locations, including the Eastern District Headquarters in Marlborough, which can be reached at 860.295.9523. Veterans may also apply by sending a photocopy of their current Connecticut driver's license or other legal proof of residency, and Veterans Administration (VA) Card or VA benefits letter indicating the service connected disability to: DEEP Disabled Veteran Pass - State Parks Division - 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127.

Veterans History Project

Would you like to participate in the Veterans History Project by having your oral history recorded and archived? As an archive partner with the Library of Congress, Central CT State University assists in preserving the firsthand accounts of history for future generations from the men and women who witnessed and lived it. For more information please call 860.832.2976 or check out the Project's website at www.ccsu.edu/vhp.

Jobs are Priority #1

I supported the expansion of the Small Business Express Program (EXP) to enable an estimated 3,600 additional businesses to have access to state funding in order to put people back to work and attract new business to Connecticut. The legislation includes:

- The establishment of the Unemployed Armed Forces Member STEP-UP (Subsidized Training and Employment Program) with grants to subsidize the cost of a business to hire unemployed veterans during their first 180 days (about six months) on the job. The bill authorizes \$10 million in bonds for the program, with \$5 million available upon passage and the balance available in Fiscal Year 2014.
- The creation of the "Connecticut Made" and "Connecticut Treasures" programs to promote products made in Connecticut, and promote the state's cultural, educational and historic attractions. Part of the bill provides for the design planning, and implementation of a multiyear, state-wide marketing and advertising plan that includes television and radio advertisements showcasing Connecticut-made products and the advantages they offer.
- A plan to relocate overseas jobs to Connecticut by allowing the state to give preference to companies that will relocate jobs from overseas to Connecticut; assistance includes loans, tax incentives and other forms of economic development that create jobs and invest capital within a certain timeframe.

State Representative

Susan Johnson

Proudly Serving Windham | 49th District

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CAPITOL REPORT 2012



Dear Neighbor,

The 2012 session of the General Assembly was "a truly historic session," bringing exciting changes to education, elections, utility storm response and the state's blue laws, as well as repeal of the death penalty and allowing the use of medical marijuana. One of the hallmarks of the 2012 session was the passage of a fiscal year 2013 budget adjustment bill that did not raise additional taxes. A year ago, we dealt with a shortfall in excess of \$3 billion – 15 percent of our total budget.

This year, the House passed a budget adjustment that keeps appropriations under the state's spending cap and continues our investments in education and job growth. I hope this report is informative. I'm happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others facing our state or your family. Together we can create a better future for our families.

Best wishes,

Windham Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Aid

PILOT: State Owned Property	\$2,832,635
PILOT: Colleges & Hospitals	\$702,387
Manufacturing, Machinery & Equipment	\$369,559
Municipal Revenue Sharing	\$545,918
Town Aid Roads	\$180,593
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$226,613
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$864,840
Adult Education	\$269,216
School Transportation	\$325,620
Educational Grant Funding	\$24,169,717
Special Master Funding	\$1,000,000

Windham Priority School District Amounts FY11

Priority School District	\$1,170,737
Extended School Hours	\$64,186
School Accountability - Summer School	\$71,412
School Readiness	\$1,136,495
Total State Funds for Windham	\$33,384,010

Susan Johnson

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

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Home Phone	860.423.2085
Email	Susan.Johnson@cga.ct.gov
Web	www.housedems.ct.gov/Johnson

Windham News

- I am pleased that the funding for necessary upgrades to the Eastern Connecticut Regional Fire School has been approved and will guarantee Willimantic's and Windham's firefighters the training they need right here in the district.
- Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) has a new softball field funded by \$2.7 million in state bonds. The former field was displaced a few years ago upon the construction of parking facilities on campus. The new field will be NCAA regulation sized, and in compliance with Title IX regulations.
- Windham Hospital received \$8.3 million in state bonding money and is building a new medical center. The new 30,000-square-foot facility will be set on 2.5 acres and house medical professionals including primary-care physicians, medical oncologists, physical therapists and rehabilitators, laboratory workers, orthopedic surgeons and general surgeons.
- State funding was designated for Quiniebaug Valley Community College's (QVCC) Manufacturing Technology Center. Expanding QVCC's programs in advanced manufacturing and precision manufacturing will be a huge boost to our region. The Center will have a significant and positive impact on unemployment and provide opportunities for young people and working adults to obtain the manufacturing skills needed to grow our economy.



Rep. Susan Johnson cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of Generations in Willimantic.

Education Reform Package Good For Windham Windham Will Receive Additional Funding

A sweeping education reform package signed into law by Governor Dannel P. Malloy takes a number of much needed steps to turn around Connecticut's lowest-performing schools, and provides Windham with new funding for educational programs.

- Windham will receive nearly \$800,000 more for Windham public schools. This gives our children the support they need and deserve.
- This historic law will improve schools around the state while protecting the rights of teachers.
- The law creates 1,000 new pre-K School Readiness seats, focused in high need, low performing communities. It also creates a pilot program to enhance literacy for students in kindergarten through third grade.
- It provides for 10 new Family Resource Centers, 20 new or expanded School Based Health Centers and increased funding for existing Family Resource Centers.
- The law reforms the teacher tenure system by increasing the frequency of teacher evaluations and linking tenure to evaluations. It also requires the commissioner to administer an evaluation pilot program in 8 to 10 districts, including Windham, for the 2012-2013 school year.
- There are funding increases for vocational/technical and vocational/agricultural schools, charter and magnet schools.



- It establishes a loan reimbursement program for educators who teach English Language Learners, a proposal that originated with the English Language Learning Task Force that I co-chair.

Rep. Susan Johnson, Lt. Governor Wyman, fellow legislators and students look on as Governor Malloy signs Education Reform Bill into law.

Storm Irene and the October Nor'easter

Utility companies were not prepared for a major storm like Hurricane Irene which hit Windham and much of Connecticut really hard. I helped pass legislation dealing with emergency preparedness and response. The bill includes:

- Emergency plans every two years.
- Utility performance standards.
- Evaluation of utility performance after storms.
- A micro-grid pilot program to preserve power in critical areas.
- Procedures for expediting road clearing.
- Promoting underground power lines.

Improved Access to Breast & Colon Cancer Screening

Advances in science have shown that early detection of breast cancer is the best defense against the disease. As Vice Chair of the Insurance Committee, I'm proud that we passed legislation this year requiring insurance coverage for a comprehensive ultrasound screening and magnetic resonance imaging where a mammogram is insufficient in dense breast tissue screening.

This legislation builds on previous action we took at the legislature to protect women at risk and has made Connecticut a national leader in breast cancer awareness and prevention measures by requiring:

- Health insurance companies to provide coverage for follow-up ultrasound screening—a procedure that can reveal cancers that go undetected by a mammogram.
- Mammography reports to disclose breast density to patients.
- Health insurance companies to provide coverage for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of a woman's breast(s) in accordance with guidelines of the American Cancer Society.

Insurers will now be barred from charging two deductibles for patients who undergo a screening colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy and have a polyp removed or some other medical procedure at the same time they are being screened.

Medicare Savings Program

We ensured that thousands of seniors and people with disabilities can continue to use the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) administered by the Department of Social Services to help pay for their Medicare co-pays and deductibles.

The legislation, which passed unanimously, raises the income limit for the MSP in order to accommodate a 3.6 percent Social Security cost of living increase (COLA) which took effect January 1. It would have been a tragic irony if a welcome increase in Social Security benefits caused Connecticut residents to become ineligible for these Medicare benefits.



Rep. Susan Johnson receives a Radiologist Society of Connecticut Award from Ophthalmologist Dr. Alan Keyes.



Rep. Susan Johnson converses with Majority Leader Brendan Sharkey in the House Chamber.

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