

Rep. Jutila meets with Firefighters on Fire Service Day at the Capitol.



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Newsbriefs

Making Government Work Better

✓ Two Energy Summits held to obtain expert input on spiraling energy prices in an effort to develop a working long-term energy policy.



✓ The Appropriations Committee kicked off a Performance Based Budgeting Pilot seeking ways to make government more efficient.

✓ The General Assembly strengthened and improved last year's historic Campaign Finance Law.

Tax Savings

✓ The "Sales tax holiday" has been extended from June 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 for residential weatherization and energy efficient products.



✓ Contributions to Connecticut's college savings plan (CHET) can now be deducted from Connecticut's adjusted gross income for state tax purposes. CHET deductions up to \$5,000 for single filers and \$10,000 for joint filers may be taken annually. Invest now and claim your deduction on your 2006 tax return.



Helping the Lobster Industry

✓ We appropriated \$1 million to re-grow the lobster population following the 1999 massive die-off of an important part of our fishing industry.



✓ Mark your calendar. This year's *sales tax-free week* for clothing and footwear costing less than \$300 per item takes place August 20th to August 26th. Just in time for back-to-school shopping!

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ED JUTILA

CAPITOL NEWS

37th Assembly District

East Lyme ~ Salem



Dear Friends:

It is hard to believe, but the second legislative session of my first term has come to a close. Although time has gone by quickly, I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish in such a short time. It is a great honor and privilege to serve the citizens of East Lyme and Salem, and I continue to be grateful for the trust that you have placed in me.

In last year's end of session newsletter, I noted several issues I planned to continue to work on this year. I am pleased to report in this newsletter some significant achievements on those issues, as well as others, including progress on property tax relief, casino impact aid, transportation and job creation, all of which will benefit our region tremendously.

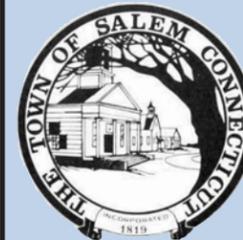
The budget adjustments adopted by the General Assembly this year will once again increase aid to towns, helping to reduce some of the property tax burden on local taxpayers. We also expanded the property tax credit on the state income tax to \$500, providing additional tax relief. At the same time, funding for special education was increased substantially, shifting more of this burden away from local school boards to the state. And for the first time in a number of years, the teachers' retirement will be fully funded, while the rainy day fund will grow to nearly one billion dollars.

We were able to accomplish all of this within the context of a balanced budget, passed on time, under the constitutional spending cap, and with no new taxes.

Details of these and other highlights from this legislative session are included in this *Capitol News Report*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of you who have contacted me throughout the year by phone, e-mail, office hours or my survey, and encourage you to continue to express your opinions, ideas and concerns.

Sincerely,



Increases in State Aid (FY 2006-2007)

East Lyme

State Grants*	Special Education	Property Tax Relief	Total Increase¹
+ \$138,352	+ \$118,927	+ 64,289	= +\$321,568

Salem

State Grants*	Special Education	Property Tax Relief	Total Increase¹
+ \$21,006	+ \$26,735	+ 18,289	= + \$66,030

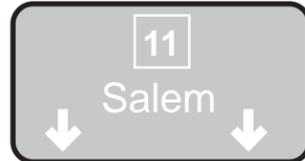
*State Grants Include ECS, Town Road Aid, Pequot Fund, PILOT, etc.

¹Total Increase over 2005-2006

Transportation

Following up on last year's modest transportation bill, this year we passed a truly bold and comprehensive transportation initiative that contains the elements necessary to relieve gridlock throughout our state, including southeastern Connecticut.

This year's \$2.3 billion initiative includes several projects important to our region.



The measure, appropriately titled "The Roadmap For Connecticut's Economic Future," emphasizes mass transit, including important enhancements to the Shoreline East commuter rail system. However, it also provides a potential source of funding for current transportation improvement projects such as the completion of Route 11.

In addition, the bill will set in motion planning and environmental studies to make way for the widening of I-95 all the way to the Rhode Island border. We also passed legislation that will make it easier for the Route 11 Greenway Commission to obtain land for the greenway, while also permitting the Commission to seek state funds for future land acquisitions.

This landmark legislation will go a long way toward easing traffic congestion and be an incentive for Connecticut companies to stay and grow, while encouraging new companies to move to our state.



Rep. Jutila addresses a press conference on Transportation, along with Speaker Amann and other legislative leaders.

Questions? Concerns? Ideas?

Casino Funding

One of my top priorities since taking a seat on the Appropriations Committee has been to obtain casino impact aid for southeastern Connecticut towns. Last year we succeeded in obtaining \$1.6 million for fiscal '07, which began on July 1st. This year we scored a huge victory when we persuaded the General Assembly to make that aid a permanent part of the Pequot Fund Formula. This will result in increased revenue for both East Lyme and Salem for years to come. It will also help to answer the frequent question "What happens to all the casino money?" The answer is more will be going to our towns!



Rep. Jutila speaks with fellow southeastern CT delegation member Betsy Ritter of Waterford. Impact communities like East Lyme and Salem will now receive permanent Casino impact aid.

Education

This year's biennial budget adjustments include:

- ✓ \$246 million from the surplus to fully fund the teachers' retirement plan through 2007.
- ✓ Additional \$2 million to the Capitol Scholarship program helping students attend public and private colleges in-state.
- ✓ Increased funding for special education, shifting more of this burden away from local school boards to the state.

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Jobs and Business

This session we adopted a comprehensive plan designed to spur job growth in Connecticut. This package of tax credits, tax cuts, grants and training will do much to promote job growth and establish a more business friendly climate. The package includes targeted tax credits designed to entice businesses into the state from the film and entertainment industry. These incentives could be particularly beneficial to southeastern Connecticut as it strives to become a center of excellence for this industry.

In addition, the plan:

- ✓ Phases out the property tax on manufacturing machinery and equipment.
- ✓ Eliminates the 15% corporate business tax surcharge.

Healthcare

Detecting Breast Cancer

Insurance companies will now be required to cover the cost of ultrasounds for women who are considered to be at increased risk for breast cancer due to family history or prior breast cancer.

Autism Pilot Program

This law requires the establishment of an autism spectrum disorders pilot program. The program will provide services such as life and job skills for autistic adults and their families.



ArtPhoto by Pietro
Rep. Jutila being presented a distinguished service award for his support of community based behavioral health services by Steve Larcen, President of Natchaug Hospital.

State Representative
ED JUTILA
37th District East Lyme ~ Salem

Environment

As a member of the Environment Committee I am always working to make sure we do all we can to protect open space and the shoreline. This includes speaking out against the proposed Broadwater project which calls for a 10 story natural gas terminal to be located just 11 miles off the coast of CT in Long Island Sound. I am working in conjunction with others, including the Attorney General, to do everything possible to prevent this industrialization of the Sound.

Encroachment on Open Space Lands

People who encroach on preserved open space land and engage in any activity that damages or alters the land will now face tougher penalties.

Pilot Program to Evaluate Shoreline Erosion

In order to revive and protect the natural beauty of our coastline, and promote tourism and job creation, a new bill will make available \$450,000 to fund a pilot program to reverse the effects of beach erosion.

Clean Cars

Connecticut took a major step toward the state's goal of lowering greenhouse gas emissions by passing legislation to implement a GHG (greenhouse gas) labeling program for new vehicles sold or leased for the 2009 model year and later. Cars will be rated on a scale of 0 to 10. We also made the sales tax exemption on hybrid vehicles that get 40 mpg permanent.

Seniors

- Disability payments will not be counted as income when computing property tax exemptions for veterans, the blind and people with total disabilities.
- Workers collecting Social Security benefits will no longer lose those benefits when injured on the job and forced to collect worker's compensation.
- Towns may now freeze property taxes on homes owned by people age 70 or older for at least one year if the elderly homeowner meets the income limits for "the circuit breaker" program.
- Homemaker companion agencies must now register annually with the Department of Consumer Protection and perform comprehensive background checks on new employees.