



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
- » Personal 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
- » Streamlined regulatory process to speed up business permitting

Towns Can Save by Working Together

Property Taxpayers May Get Relief

Municipalities can now team-up with other towns to save money while delivering necessary services.

We created the blue ribbon commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE). The MORE Commission was charged with initiating a new approach to state and local government in Connecticut that would make our state more economically competitive in the short and long term.

Over the coming year, additional opportunities for cost savings will be discussed with local government officials and business leaders – all working together to encourage more cooperation between towns.

This year we passed legislation providing for:

- » Cost savings by allowing towns to join the state in bulk purchasing of prescription drugs
- » School transportation savings by giving money to towns that work together to provide transportation services
- » Health insurance savings by allowing two or more municipalities or boards of education to purchase employee health benefits
- » Savings to towns by getting local taxpayers off the hook for storing the belongings of evicted tenants

Important phone numbers

To reach many state services, call InfoLine	211
ConnPACE	800.423.5026
Medicare Hotline	800.633.4227
Long-Term Care	800.547.3443
Commission on Aging	860.240.5200
Medicare Advocacy	800.262.4414
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Veteran's Affairs	860.616.3600
CT Elder Services	866.218.6631
Health Care Advocate	866.466.4446

www.housedems.ct.gov/Jutila

State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

Ed Jutila

Proudly Serving East Lyme and Salem | 37th District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dear Friends & Neighbors:

During this year's legislative session much of the media and public attention understandably focused on the budget adjustment deliberations and final legislation. Due to the projected deficit for the second year of the biennial budget originally adopted in 2009, the General Assembly recognized its responsibility to make the necessary adjustments to eliminate the deficit. For a number of reasons, however, I elected to vote against the budget bill, primarily because of its heavy reliance on additional borrowing to be secured by assessments on utility bills.

At the same time, we were able to adopt a number of other important measures to support job creation, enhance recycling, improve school bus safety, reduce costs for senior citizens, and provide potential property tax relief by eliminating certain state mandates and offering incentives to towns to team up together to deliver services. The legislature also eliminated \$422 million in prior bond authorizations, thereby reducing debt and improving the state's fiscal health.

This newsletter highlights and presents some additional details on a number of key bills passed this year, as well as some items of local interest. As always, I encourage you to phone or e-mail me with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,



State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

Ed Jutila

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NEWSBRIEFS

Good News for Seniors

Reducing Costs for Homecare

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

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.

Transportation

School Bus Safety

To ensure that children are protected on public school buses, I voted to:

- » Increase fines for bus companies that do not meet state safety inspection standards
- » Increase fines for negligent school bus operators
- » Incentivize school districts that choose to purchase new buses with seat belts

Consumer Protection

Credit for Fishing & Hunting License

This session we rolled back the fee increases paid by outdoor sports enthusiasts to more reasonable levels. In addition, those who bought their licenses early this year and paid the higher fee will be eligible for a credit to be applied to the next license, permit, or tag purchased.

Do Not Call List

This legislation seeks to further protect consumers who are registered on a "Do Not Call" list by increasing the penalties for businesses that violate those provisions. This bill would increase this penalty to \$11,000 for each violation.

Public Safety

Keep Your Eyes on the Road

As the incidence of distracted driving continues to increase and cell phone technology advances, we updated our laws to make our roads safer.

- » The cell phone ban is now extended to texting
- » Fines for using a cell phone while driving are increased

Protection against Sex Offenders

New restrictions limit where state sex offender facilities can be located. Prior to construction, state agencies must now consider the proximity to schools, roads, daycare centers, and other criteria. Contractors must also specify five potential locations in their proposals.

Environment

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We all recognize the importance of recycling. Connecticut residents will now be able to recycle more through changes made that:

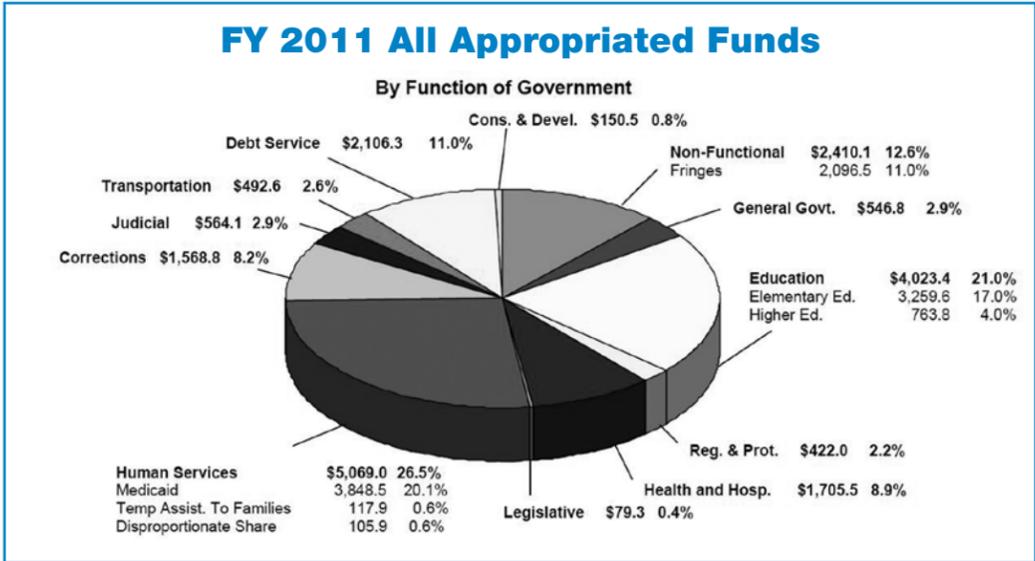
- » Allow for more types of paper and plastic to be recycled
- » Require private trash collectors to offer recycling
- » Require recycling bins in public areas where regular trash bins are located



Rep. Jutila meets with Kate Larkin of Niantic and Elizabeth Mahoney of East Lyme, members of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut Board of Directors on Girl Scout Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

The State Budget

Below you will find a pie chart depicting the allocation of state funds to the major areas of state government for the fiscal year that began on July 1st. This allocation is the result of the biennial budget passed in 2009, as adjusted by the budget adjustment legislation of the 2010 legislative session.



Reducing the State's Debt

This year we worked together in bipartisan fashion in unanimously approving legislation that eliminates \$422 million in previously authorized state borrowing.

In so doing, we tightened our fiscal belts by removing unnecessary borrowing requests while keeping key projects worthy of future investment intact. This was an unprecedented endeavor I am proud to have been a part of.

The reduction represents a 22 percent decrease for previously planned borrowing projects. The cancellation of this borrowing will keep the state below the bonding cap and control future debt for the state.



LOCAL NEWS

Camp Niantic

This session I introduced legislation that will permanently change the name of the state military training camp in East Lyme to Camp Niantic. The measure changes the current policy under which the camp is named after the sitting governor. This permanent name change will eliminate confusion and, in the long run, also save money from having to change state signs, stationery and maps. The efforts and support of our local VFW, American Legion and Veterans Council were instrumental in bringing this about. The change will take effect after Governor Rell leaves office in January.

Shore Line East

Since May, there are now five Shore Line East commuter trains departing from New London each weekday connecting to Metro-North in New Haven and three trains running in the opposite direction returning to New London. Although much delayed, and far from the full complement of trains anticipated, this does represent substantial progress. We will not rest, however, until southeastern CT has full weekday and weekend service. An additional stop in Niantic will continue to be a longer-term objective.

Minimum Budget Requirement

This session we passed legislation that allows towns like Salem that had fewer students enrolled in its schools in the 2009-10 school year than it did in the 2008-09 school year to reduce its Minimum Budget Requirement for FY 10 by up to \$3,000 multiplied by the difference in the enrollments. This new law will help towns avoid making unnecessary expenditures in order to comply with the law and avoid penalties.

State Representative

ED JUTILA

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.

- 2010 Major Acts
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Health Care
- Environment
- Jobs
- Seniors
- Energy
- Children
- Education

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ADDRESS _____

TOWN & ZIP _____

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