

## Taking on High Property Taxes

Out of control local property taxes have made it very difficult for many families in this state—that’s why property tax reform is such an important priority for me. I also fought to restore the property tax credit in the final budget.

Despite the difficult economy, I am pleased that this year we were able to **increase the amount of state aid to each of our towns**, used to pay for education, roads and other expenses. The more state aid we receive, the **lower our property taxes**.

TOTAL STATE AID	2010	2011*
Durham	\$4,164,589	\$4,375,938
Middlefield	\$2,259,968	\$2,511,525
Middletown	\$28,046,639	\$29,951,052

\*Estimate based on projections from the non-partisan Office of Fiscal Analysis

## Town Briefs

### Middlefield/Rockfall

- Secured \$500,000 in state assistance for Powder Ridge ski resort
- Successfully fought for funding to repair the Lake Beseck Dam
- Grant from CT Commission on Culture & Tourism will promote Lyman Orchard

### Middletown

- Secured \$500,000 to save Even Start program in Middletown and 3 other locations
- Fought to save Riverview Hospital, DSS Office, Worker’s Compensation Office, Middletown DMV, Connecticut Valley Hospital Detox facilities and other vital employers in our area
- Connecticut Arts Endowment Fund grant for Oddfellows Playhouse

### Durham

- Secured nearly \$1 million to upgrade facilities at Durham’s Camp Farnam
- New legislation promotes the use of renewable energy technologies on dairy farms
- Renamed Route 79 in honor of late State Representative David Lavine



Rep. Lesser at a ceremony renaming Route 79 in memory of former Durham State Rep. David Lavine. Rep. Lesser authored legislation this year designating the portion of Route 79 in Durham from the Killingworth-Durham town line to its end the David Lavine Memorial Highway.

State Representative

# Matt Lesser

Proudly Serving Durham, Middlefield and Middletown | 100<sup>th</sup> District

YOUR REPRESENTATIVE in the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Rep. Lesser with essay contest winners from Coginchaug Regional High School & their English teacher at the State Capitol.

## State Representative Matt Lesser

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

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585  
Home Phone 860.344.1230



sign up for email updates,  
view legislation I sponsored,  
watch videos and more:  
[housedems.ct.gov/Lesser](http://housedems.ct.gov/Lesser)



Scan this QR code using your smartphone app. to directly access my website.

## Keeping Government Honest & Accountable

As the new Vice Chairman of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, my job requires me to serve as a watchdog over state government. I'm proud that we reduced the number of state agencies by 30 percent, creating a more efficient government that will still serve the people of Connecticut well.

[www.transparency.ct.gov](http://www.transparency.ct.gov) is a new website—the result of legislation I sponsored—that makes it easy for any member of the public to follow every penny taxed and spent by State Government. You can search salaries and contracts or browse state agency budgets—all in seconds.

## Saving Vinal Tech

When budget cuts threatened the future of Vinal Tech, I helped persuade Governor Malloy and other legislators to protect the school and its important role in our area.

## Supporting Our Schools

Despite difficult cuts elsewhere, we were able to **protect 100 percent of core funding for our schools**. The legislature also took measures to ensure our schools are safe learning environments. A new law strengthens anti-bullying laws to include bullying, harassment and intimidation using the Internet or mobile phones.



Rep. Lesser and the AARP host a forum on seniors and energy prices in Middlefield.

## Looking Out for Seniors

- Nursing Home Grievance committees will be established at every nursing home to ensure that residents' concerns are resolved in a timely manner
- Grandparents Rights will be the subject of a study aimed at enhancing their ability to seek visitation rights with their grandchildren
- Money Follows the Person was expanded so that more nursing home residents may transition back to their homes

## Lowering Electric Rates

I sponsored legislation to lower energy costs and electric rates, while moving the state toward cleaner and more efficient energy. Some key elements include:

- Merging two state agencies into one streamlined agency—Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
- Requiring reduced energy use in state buildings by at least 10 percent by 2013 and another 10 percent by 2018
- Establishing a one-stop-shop to proactively reach out to businesses and consult with them on available programs and reducing their energy costs
- Programs promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, including financing to replace inefficient heating equipment and funding for residential solar installations

## Standing up for Consumers

### *Protecting You from Dishonest Salesmen*

After hearing from many area seniors, I authored a new law that provides strict rules and a new code of conduct for door-to-door and telephone electricity sales. Among other protections, these ensure that salesmen are licensed, have photo identification and provide all information to you in writing.

### *Protecting your Privacy*

I authored and passed legislation preventing employers from unfairly requiring you to give them access to your credit history. This has been a problem for many people in our area who need jobs but cannot get them in some cases just because they fell behind in their bills after being laid off.



Rep. Lesser at the groundbreaking ceremony for the state's first all "green" office park in Middletown, Centerpoint Connecticut.

## Keeping Workers Safe

A year ago, our area was rocked by the Kleen Energy disaster which took the lives of 6 workers. My job was to make sure that this never happened again. This year I authored, championed and persuaded Governor Malloy to sign a new law making Connecticut the first state in the country to ban dangerous natural gas blows.

## Building Middletown's Waterfront

I sponsored legislation allowing Middletown to join the Mattabassett District and use their wastewater treatment plant. This will allow Middletown to demolish its own facility on the Connecticut River, freeing the land up for potential development. This will result in a savings of approximately \$1 million and create many new jobs.

## Saving Our Farms

Agriculture is important to our community—and to our economy so I supported:

- Establishing a matching grant program for towns to help farmers promote their farms
- Creating the Connecticut Farm Link Program, a database that links buyers with farmers wanting to sell their operations or farmland
- Encouraging the sale of Connecticut grown products
- Allowing municipalities to form local and regional agricultural councils to promote Connecticut farms

## Cracking Down on Domestic Violence

Almost one out of every three criminal court cases involves domestic violence. That's why I sponsored legislation making it easier for victims to get restraining orders, improving information sharing between state agencies, facilitating victims' access to support services, and providing police with more tools to protect communities.

