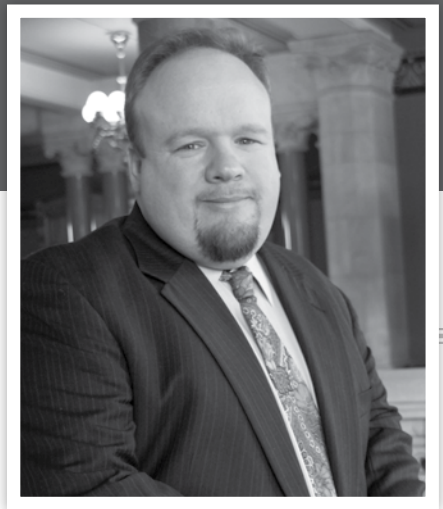
State Representative

RICK LOPES

New Britain, Newington | 24th House District



Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 800-842-8267
Office: 860-240-8585
www.housedems.ct.gov/Lopes

CONNECTICUT HOUSE DEMOCRATS

Legislative Update

I remain committed to working toward a leaner and more efficient government, while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens by keeping essential services properly funded.

First, and foremost, is crafting a responsible, balanced budget that protects community services and creates sustainable, long-term economic growth.

We are also looking at key legislation including affordable education, creating jobs, promoting economic development, lowering energy costs, improving chronic disease care coordination, and helping seniors stay in their homes as they age.

Your input gives me the best chance of properly representing you. Please don't hesitate to call or email me with your thoughts, ideas or suggestions at Rick.Lopes@cga.ct.gov or 860-240-8500.

Thank you for the honor of representing you.

Sincerely,

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CONNECTICUT HOUSE DEMOCRATS

State Representative

RICK LOPES

24TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
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A More Cost Effective State Government

I am glad to say that we have made and will continue to make progress in putting Connecticut's finances back in order. The average growth rate of state spending in the last three years has decreased from the averages of years prior. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is now saving Connecticut taxpayers $1.82 million per year by reducing energy use in state and municipal buildings as a result of the "Lead by Example" program. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) has responsibly reviewed, renegotiated or rebid statewide contracts for goods and services, resulting in a more than $18 million savings in fiscal year 2013 alone. With this great start to the New Year, I am confident we will have another successful year.

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Help for small businesses is available

The General Assembly has made a commitment to help small businesses thrive, even in this tough economy.

Many business owners may not be aware of the state programs we have put together to aid local businesses. Administered through the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), these programs provide a direct investment in our local businesses. Two examples are the Economic and Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA) and the Small Business Express Program.

If your business needs an influx of capital and meets the requirements, MAA provides low-interest loans and incentives. It is designed for projects that have significant economic development potential.

More information on all of these programs is available through the Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Small Business Affairs (SBA). You can reach SBA at 860-270-8215.