



Rep. Megna with constituents touring the Quinnipiac River.
Photograph by Ian Christman



Representative Megna with local business owner
Frances Vessichio - Squillo Distributing Co.

A BALANCED BUDGET *for* CONNECTICUT

Partnering with Governor Rell, we balanced the state's budget on time and on target. This year's budget bill included \$163 million in additional spending cuts across a host of state agencies, and a reduction of \$300 million from a previous borrowing plan. The spending cuts are deep, but necessary. Thankfully, we protected the services critically important to New Haven including:

- » No cuts in municipal aid or education funding (ECS)
- » Maintained funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses
- » Funding for dental care and prescriptions for seniors and the disabled
- » A \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
- » Guaranteeing an average 60% reduction to a fee on your electric bill
- » Reduction in last year's increase on state park fees and fishing and hunting licenses

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Major Public Acts | Acts Affecting Housing |
| Acts Affecting Seniors | Acts Affecting Health Professionals |
| Acts Affecting Transportation | Acts Affecting Veterans & Military |
| Acts Affecting Children | Acts Affecting Education |
| Acts Affecting Municipalities | Acts Affecting Insurance |
| Acts Affecting Business | Acts Affecting Real Estate |



State Representative
ROBERT W. MEGNA

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State Representative



Robert W. Megna

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE - CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE - CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



State Representative



Robert W. Megna

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Capitol Update

The 2010 legislative session has been one of both challenge and compromise as we worked to address the state budget deficiency. In the end, we saw real results as the Legislature and the Governor worked together to draft a sound, responsible and fair state budget. I am proud that we were able to work together, across party lines, to create a compromise and close the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years with no deficit and a balanced budget that avoided both devastating cuts to services and tax increases.

As we look ahead to the future, fiscal challenges remain. While I am truly optimistic about Connecticut's economic recovery, I remain realistic about the absolute necessity to prevent wasteful spending, limit borrowing and keep taxes in check. I will continue to work towards those goals as your voice in the State Capitol. I look forward to your feedback, and hope you will contact me with your questions or if you need assistance.

State Representative

Robert W. Megna

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Representative Robert W. Megna

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

State Representative Robert W. Megna

Capitol Phone 800.842.8267

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Cleaner Environment & Jobs In Our District

Biodiesel is a clean burning alternative fuel for cars, trucks and home heating. We passed a bill that focuses on expanding the eligibility criteria for grants that spur the development of a biodiesel industry in the state. As a result, New Haven will have a biodiesel facility in our district that will employ an estimated 20 people. In addition, it will increase the ability of local companies to receive support, and assistance from the state.

Motorcyclists

As an avid motorcyclist I understand the risk of injury. A new law requires all applicants for a motorcycle license, rather than just those under age 18, to successfully complete a motorcycle training course.

Safer Roadways

We passed a law this year that sets higher fines for drivers who use a cell phone or mobile electronic device while driving. This bill also specifies that it is illegal to text while driving a moving vehicle. 25% of the fine revenue for every ticket issued in New Haven will go to back to our town.

Seniors

» CT Home Care Program for Elders participants will soon see a reduction in their monthly costs for critical in-home services, such as meal deliveries and personal care assistance. The budget reduces the percentage seniors pay for these services from 15% to 6%.

» We passed a bill this year that will allow all pharmacists to administer vaccines to individuals over the age of 18. Vaccinations are one of the most cost effective health interventions we have available, and this bill will make vaccinations more accessible for those who need them the most.

Consumer Protection

» A new law imposes a fine of up to \$11,000 for solicitors violating the "Do Not Call" registry. Violations are an unfair trade practice

» We passed a bill this year that will prohibit insurers from denying, cancelling, or not renewing an automobile insurance policy based solely on a person's credit history or lack of credit history



Representative Robert W. Megna on the Grand Avenue Bridge

Health Care

The recent passage of the historic federal health care reform law will lead to welcome improvements in the quality, access and affordability of health care for Connecticut residents. This session, the legislature built on those improvements, taking steps to lower costs and enhance transparency and accountability in our health care system.

New Legislation:

» Saves money for towns by allowing them to join the state in bulk purchasing of prescription drugs

» Requires insurance companies to disclose denial rates so consumers can compare the quality of different plans

» Extends state COBRA coverage from 18 to 30 months so laid off employees can keep their health insurance as they look for new jobs

» Requires insurance companies to refer consumers to the state Office of the Health Care Advocate for assistance with denials of coverage

» Improves coverage for chemotherapy patients

» Enhances patient safety by improving hospital reporting of medical errors

School Based Health Centers

The mission of SBHCs is to assure access to primary and preventive health care for school-aged students. We passed a bill this year that will require CT health insurers to reimburse SBHCs for covered health services. This is estimated to create up to \$3.6 million in revenue to help keep SBHCs open.

Education

During this legislative session the General Assembly took major steps in reforming and improving our educational system. This bill will strengthen CT's application for the next round of federal Race to the Top Education funds. It also addresses CT's achievement gap, one of the largest in the country.

This legislation also:

» Creates an alternate route to certification for administrators

» Expands educational data systems

» Creates a statewide accountability plan

» Requires low achieving schools to create school governance councils made up mostly of students' parents or guardians

» Ties teacher evaluations to multiple indicators for student growth

Saluting Our Veterans

» Veterans in nursing homes can now use the VA as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers

» Active duty service members out of state will get an extension for 30 days to renew their expired driver's licenses after their return to Connecticut

» March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day

» Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses



Representative Robert W. Megna surveying litter along the Quinnipiac River Bank; Ducks on the River
Photographs by Ian Christman



Real Estate

» The state's Foreclosure Mediation Program prohibits banks from continuing to charge homeowners late fees if the bank does not show up for mediation sessions or arrive unprepared. This session we extended the program until 2012.

» I am proud to have drafted legislation defining the nature and role of public adjusters. This bill now requires proper licensing with the insurance commissioner and increases fines and jail sentencing for non-compliance.

Protecting Families

I am proud to support the most sweeping reforms to our domestic violence laws in the past 25 years. This legislation provides tools that:

» Improve educator training and enforcement of protective orders

» Provide employment and housing protections

» Create a GPS monitoring program for high risk offenders

» Increase staffing at 24 hour emergency shelters

Home & Business Insurance

This year I wrote legislation which protects homeowners and business owners from unscrupulous home improvement contractors and public adjusters when they have a major property claim, such as a fire.

Duck Hunting Banned

Many constituents living along the Quinnipiac River expressed concern over water fowl hunting between the Middletown Bridge and the mouth of the Harbor. Residents found it very disturbing to hear gunshots and witness fowl hunting in their own back yards.

I along with Senator Martin Looney successfully petitioned the Department of Environment Protection and water fowl hunting is now banned in these neighborhoods.

Small Business

Digging Out of the Recession

Working with the Governor, we passed a significant 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 business & non-profits

» Student loan reimbursement for careers in new & emerging fields

» Personal income tax credits for investments in new technology businesses

» Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies & 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 & technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts

» Reformed environmental rules to speed up business permitting process

» Changes to the film tax credit program that will create more jobs in CT.

