



Strengthening Connecticut Schools

The difference in the achievement levels among Connecticut schools is one of the highest in the nation. We took steps to help turn around low-achieving schools, increase our chances for federal "Race to the Top" education dollars, and improve our vocational high schools.

The legislation:

- Enacts reforms that strengthen the state's application for federal Race to the Top education funds
- Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- Requires school boards with low-achieving schools to create School Governance Councils with mostly students, parents and guardians as members
- Empowers councils to advise the principal on the budget, interview candidates for principal, and recommend reorganization of low-achieving schools
- Improves vocational schools by adding two members with manufacturing or vocational education experience to the state Board of Education
- Protects our children with better maintenance of buses and better bus drivers
- Requires public hearings before school closures and increases parent involvement
- Ensures adequate staff and supplies

Wethersfield Can Save on Health Insurance

Cities and towns can now save money on health insurance costs.

- Two or more towns or boards of education can join together to purchase health care benefits at lower costs
- A larger group can achieve lower premiums, better benefits for employees, and more bargaining power for towns

Lower-Cost Drugs

- Municipalities can now take advantage of lower-cost prescription drugs through state discounts
- The bargaining power, low administrative costs and discounts negotiated by the state will save cities and towns money

State Representative

RUSSELL A. MORIN

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State Representative | Assistant Majority Leader

Russell A. Morin

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Russell A. Morin

State Representative 28th District

Assistant Majority Leader

Proudly Serving Wethersfield



CAPITOL NEWS 2010



Dear Neighbor,

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 legislative leadership and the Governor worked together to craft a sound, responsible and fair state budget. I am proud that we were able to work together, across party lines, to compromise and close the 2010 and 2011 fiscal years with no deficit and a balanced budget that avoided both devastating cuts to services and cuts to our town.

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.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Morin
State Representative

Russell A. Morin

Proudly Serving Wethersfield | 28th District



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

State Representative Russell A. Morin

Capitol Phone 860-240-8500

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Saluting Our Veterans

- Veterans in nursing homes can now use the VA as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers
- Honorably discharged retired veterans with 30 years or more of service can now apply for "retirement promotions" and move up one grade in rank
- 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

Creating Jobs: My Number One Priority

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 non-profits
- Student loan reimbursement for careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- Personal income tax credits for investments made in new and emerging technologies
- Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used 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
- Reformed environmental rules that speed up the business permitting process and maintain environmental protections
- Changes to the state's film tax credit program that will create more film production jobs in Connecticut

Credit for Fishing and Hunting Licenses

Sports enthusiasts who bought their licenses early this year and paid a higher price will be eligible for a credit that will be applied to the next license, permit, or tag purchase. The DEP will reserve the credit and apply it to purchases made after October 1, 2010.

A BALANCED BUDGET for CONNECTICUT – On Time and On Target

Partnering with Governor Rell, we balanced the state's budget – on time and without any tax increases. The budget contains no cuts in municipal aid funds.

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.

We erased a \$10 billion deficit, balancing the budget on time and on target.

Thankfully, we protected the services critically important to Wethersfield, including:

- \$199,948 in Town Aid Road funding for Wethersfield
- \$8,046,440 in Education funding for Wethersfield
- Funding for programs that assist seniors and the disabled
- Funding for hospitals, schools, libraries, and courthouses

We also provided a helping hand, through:

- Funding for dental care and prescriptions for seniors and the disabled
- Protecting the \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
- Funding for programs that help prevent mortgage foreclosure

Additional good news for state residents this summer:

- We reduced last year's increase on state park fees and fishing and hunting licenses

Town Aid for Wethersfield

Fiscal Year 2010-2011	
Total Education Grants	\$8,046,440
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$199,948
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$184,612
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$242,539
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$216,116
School Transportation	\$192,113
Total State Funds to Wethersfield	\$9,081,768

Safer Sports Student Athletes and Concussions

Head injuries in school sports are often hard to diagnose and in some cases have tragic results.

To avoid serious long-term injuries we enacted new protections:

- Student athletes who sustain head injuries will need medical clearance before re-joining athletic activity
- Athletic coaches will now be trained to recognize and respond to concussions
- Anyone with a coach's permit issued by the State Board of Education will need to complete a course on head injuries by the start of their sports season next school year
- The state school board can revoke a permit if any requirements are not followed

Transportation School Bus Safety

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

- Increase fines for bus companies that do not meet state safety inspection rules
- Increase fines for negligent school bus operators
- Provide incentives for school districts that require newly purchased buses to have seat belts

Good News for Seniors

- Reduced seniors' cost-share for the state-funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6%– saving the average client \$100 per month
- Re-opened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family caregivers
- Protected seniors' assets when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid

State Representative

RUSSELL A. MORIN

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 issues of interest.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2010 Major Acts | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Children |
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