



Mary Mushinsky at the SCSU Science Building groundbreaking ceremony



Martin Cobern of APS Technology. Technology jobs are a bright spot in Wallingford's employment

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the 2013 session of the Connecticut General Assembly convened in January, the tragedy in Newtown weighed on all of our minds and created a somber mood over the legislature and our state.

In response, legislative leaders created a bipartisan task force on Gun Violence Prevention & Children's Safety charged with improving gun safety, school security and access to mental health services.

My committee wrote the mental health part of the bill. Constituents in my district survey heavily favored background checks, mandatory reporting of those who pose a danger to others, and locked safes. They more narrowly favored military-type weapons bans and limits to rounds of ammunition. As a result of this divided public opinion, we allowed retention of previously owned weapons--with mandatory registration--in the final legislation.

In addition, this session proved difficult as we also faced having to balance another budget deficit as the economy has still been slow to recover. We were able to balance our state budget with no new taxes, avoided cuts to our municipalities, made increased investments in education, and maintained the safety net for our most vulnerable residents. This session we passed several bills that help small businesses and grow good jobs. We moved \$20 million of state funds into the already-successful Small Business Express Program to help more small businesses grow and thrive. If you own a small business, please take advantage of this program. Please visit [www.ct.gov/ece](http://www.ct.gov/ece) for more information about the program.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter helpful and informative and you and your family enjoy a happy and healthy fall.

<http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Mushinsky>

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Mary Mushinsky**  
SERVING WALLINGFORD | 85TH DISTRICT

Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591  
Capitol: 800-842-8267  
Home: 203-269-8378  
[www.housedems.ct.gov/Mushinsky](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Mushinsky)

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# STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARY MUSHINSKY

SERVING WALLINGFORD | 85<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



Meeting Prof. Chris Ball of Quinnipiac University, honorary Hungarian Consul



Rep. Mushinsky chairing the Program Review & Investigations public hearing on workforce



Linear Trail Phase III

Funds are in place for extending the linear trail another 1.25 miles. Bidding for construction will begin upon receipt of the final permit.



**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME:**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**MARY MUSHINSKY**

Capitol Phone: 800-842-1902

Home Phone: 203-269-8378

Email: [Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Mary.Mushinsky@cga.ct.gov)

## WALLINGFORD FUNDING INCREASE

Despite the difficulties surrounding our biennial budget debate, I am proud to have not only maintained, but increased funding for Wallingford. I was committed to preserving the safety net our community depends on while keeping property taxes down and we were able to accomplish both these goals. Below are the budget appropriations for Wallingford.

### STATE DOLLARS FOR WALLINGFORD IN FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014 AID

Adult Education:	\$259,864
Colleges and Hospitals PILOT	\$340,176
Education Cost Sharing	\$21,740,956
LoCIP	\$291,753
MRSA Payments	\$1,832,519
Non-Public School Transportation	\$18,270
Pequot/Mohegan Grant	\$174,855
Public School Transportation	\$255,331
State Owned Pilot	\$50,485
Town Aid Road	\$543,569
Vocational Agriculture	\$726,727
Total State Funds to Wallingford	\$26,234,505
Total State Funds in FY 2013	\$25,867,810
Increased Funding from FY 2013-2014	\$366,695

## A BALANCED BUDGET

Working cooperatively with Governor Dannel Malloy, we crafted a historic budget, as our economy continues to recover. It is critical that we balance our state budget with no new taxes while maximizing Connecticut taxpayer dollars that come back from Washington. Throughout this process, I have been committed to avoiding cuts to our town, investing in education, and maintaining the safety net for our most vulnerable residents.

This 2013-2014 budget passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Malloy:

- Includes major investment in science and technology at the University of Connecticut
- Provides funding for the landmark public education reforms passed in 2012
- Continues Economic Development Programs
- Maintains aid to cities and towns

## PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL

Towns that must remove phosphorus as a condition of their sewage treatment permit will now be eligible for a higher reimbursement rate. We approved language in Section 64 of Public Act 13-239, the bond package, to increase municipal grants to 50% for phosphorus removal. I worked with a bipartisan coalition of area legislators to argue successfully that the increase was appropriate because the new requirement was more difficult to meet for certain parts of the state.



Tour of Geremia Greenhouses

Phosphorus is a nutrient that, when present in abundance, causes explosive algae growth, leading to impaired water quality. The federal Clean Water Act requires states to make improvements to stop the impairment. This increased grant can help Wallingford and other Quinnipiac River towns improve water quality with additional state funds. The additional grant funds are earmarked for the first three municipalities to pursue phosphorus removal on or before July 1, 2018. The new grant increase for phosphorus matches the highest reimbursement rate for treatment plants allowed under the Clean Water Act.

## GMO LABELING

I'm very pleased we now have strong GMO labeling legislation that will become a first-in-the-nation law, and that Connecticut will not go it alone in this fight. This law, which will go into effect when triggered by passage of similar legislation in other states, is a significant victory in the fight to know what is in the food we eat.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

This legislative session we reaffirmed our commitment to affordable housing with the most significant gains in decades. With greater investment in CHFA, a newly established Department of Housing, and across the state development projects, we are investing in the people and communities that drive our economy. **(SB 845)**

## RATE DESIGNS PROMOTE WATER CONSERVATION

A major change in water law (SB 807) will encourage water companies to adopt rate designs to encourage water conservation to reduce energy demands, operational costs, and the expense of additional sources of supply and/or treatment. The law also expands the use of a ratemaking tool for private water companies to improve system reliability, water quality and reduce losses from main breaks and leaks. Water conservation not only saves streams from drying up—it also creates construction jobs.



## MINIMUM WAGE

I supported increasing the minimum fair wage to \$9 per hour over the next two years. It is imperative that we provide hard working people in this state with a living wage. Small business owners know that paying their workers more leads to dedicated, happier employees who can afford to be consumers.