



A BALANCED BUDGET *for* CONNECTICUT

– *On Time and On Target*

By working hard and reaching across party lines to create a compromise, we were able to balance this year's state budget with:

- » No tax increases
- » 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
- » Lower co-pays for home care services, by \$100/month on average (AARP endorsed)
- » A \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
- » Guarantee of an average 60% reduction to a fee on your electric bill

Total State Funds to the 48th District	\$18,470,861
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Important phone numbers

To reach many state services, call InfoLine	211
ConnPACE	800.423.5026
Medicare Hotline	800.633.4227
Long-Term Care	800.547.3443
Commission on Aging	860.240.5200
Medicare Advocacy	800.262.4414
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Veteran's Affairs	860.616.3600
CT Elder Services	866.218.6631
Health Care Advocate	866.466.4446

HUSKY Health Care for Kids	877.CT.HUSKY
Care4Kids Care Program	888.214.KIDS
Headstart Preschool Programs	860.713.6548
Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET)	888.799.2438
Food Stamps/SNAP	860.560.2100
ACCESS Agency	860.774.0418
Generations Family Health Center	860.774.7501
Youth Service Bureau	860.564.6100
Temporary Family Assistance	860.424.5540

State Representative
LINDA A. ORANGE

visit my website:
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State Representative | Deputy Speaker

Linda A. Orange

Proudly Serving Colchester and East Haddam | 48th District

STATE REPRESENTATIVE of the CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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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 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 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 widespread 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.

Linda A. Orange

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Rep. Orange and Rep. Steve Dargan reviewing legislation pertaining to public safety.



Rep. Orange overseeing a debate in the House of Representatives.

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

State Representative
Linda Orange

Capitol Phone 800.842.1902

Home Phone 860.537.3936

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Social Services

Maximizing Federal Dollars

To increase the amount of federal funding that comes to Connecticut to provide programs for those in need, we passed a bill that will match federal money with private sector funding. Millions of federal dollars under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Contingency Fund (TANF) will be available to social service non-profits who also receive private dollars. The money will be disbursed through the state's Office of Policy and Management.

Good News for Seniors

- » Reduced seniors' cost-share for the state-funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6% – saving on average \$100/month
- » Re-opened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family caregivers
- » Made it easier for seniors to qualify for automobile insurance discounts by completing a shorter, 4-hour, driver-safety course
- » Protected seniors' assets when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid

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

Protecting Families Responding to domestic violence in our communities

The legislature made the most sweeping reforms to our domestic violence laws in the past 25 years, which will empower educators, service providers, law enforcement officers and survivors with new tools, including:

- » Improvements to educator training and the enforcement of protective orders
- » Employment and housing protections
- » GPS monitoring for high risk offenders
- » Additional domestic violence court dockets
- » Increased staffing at 24 hour emergency shelters

Health Care

Moving Forward on Health Reform

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 the federal improvements, taking steps to lower costs and enhance transparency and accountability in our health care system.

The new legislation:

- » 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 for a longer time 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

Colchester and East Haddam Save by Working Together

Saving on School Busing

Every town in Connecticut can now save money on their school transportation costs.

- » A new grant is available for boards of education from multiple towns that work together to provide transportation services
- » This will be new money coming to Colchester and East Haddam school systems

Saving 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 size 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, saving money through state discounts in bulk purchasing
- » The bargaining power, low administrative costs, and discounts negotiated by the state will save cities and towns money

Creating Jobs

Number One Priority – Dig Out of the Recession

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 nonprofits
- » Student loan reimbursement for careers in new and emerging fields
- » Income tax credits for investments in new technology businesses
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and 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 and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- » Better environmental rules to speed up business permitting process

Supporting Local Dairy

With Connecticut farmers losing as much as a dollar per gallon of milk due to high production costs, we ensured that federally collected milk fees will now be used to promote local dairy farms and milk consumption. The federal government sets milk prices.

There are about 150 dairy farms in Connecticut, down from 210 in 2007 and 500 in 1990. Our legislation is aimed at saving the remaining farms. According to a UConn report, the Connecticut dairy industry supports 4,200 jobs and generates \$1 billion in sales annually.

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 education dollars, improve our vocational high schools and help students with autism.

The legislation:

- » Strengthens the state's application for federal Race to the Top education funds
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- » Improves vocational schools by adding manufacturing and vocational education experience to the state Board of Education criteria
- » Protects our children with better maintained, safer school buses
- » Requires public hearings before school closures and increases parent involvement
- » Ensures adequate staff and supplies
- » Makes sure students with autism get quality services through their special education individualized education plans (IEP)

To receive more information on any of the following issues, e-mail, call or mail me. Make sure to give your name, address and email, and indicate which issues you're interested in.

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|---|------------------------------------|
| <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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |

