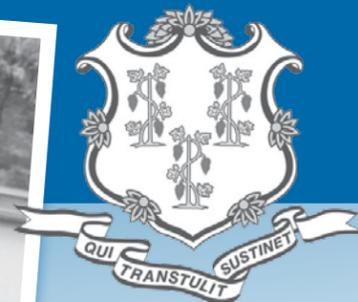


CAPITOL UPDATE 2012



State Representative

Linda Orange

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Price Gouging and Pain at the Pump

Skyrocketing gasoline prices are a result of global factors such as growing demand from expanding economies such as China, turmoil in the Middle East and oil market speculators. Faced with the reality of a global dilemma, the legislature acted in a bipartisan manner to be a part of the solution, by capping the state petroleum gross receipts tax on motor fuels and enacting new price gouging laws to protect consumers from oil companies and gasoline dealers that try to exploit abnormal market conditions for profit.

Highway Safety

Drivers are now required to move-over one lane if an emergency vehicle or maintenance vehicle with flashing lights is parked on the shoulder of any state highway. This increases the safety of emergency personnel, roadway workers and motorists by expanding the existing 'move-over' law. The new law requires drivers to move over for emergency vehicles and expands the law to cover road maintenance vehicles and tow trucks.

Desecrating Veterans' Memorials

Honoring the sacrifices of our veterans is one of my highest priorities. It is shocking to see an increase in thefts and vandalism of veterans' memorials. We increased penalties for desecrating veterans' memorials beyond the monetary value of what was vandalized.

Limiting Restraint & Seclusion Practices in Schools

Local school boards are now accountable to report on how often physical restraint and seclusion on children—i.e. "scream rooms"— are used, and if the practice is part of a student's individualized education program (IEP) or an emergency.

"Caylee's Law"

This law sets criminal penalties for the failure to report the disappearance of a child. It is in response to the circumstances surrounding the death of Florida toddler Caylee Anthony, and applies to any parent, guardian or person who has custody or supervision of the child.

Dear Neighbor:

From jobs to education to improved response to natural disasters, the legislature helped citizens across our state in 2012.

It started last October when we passed comprehensive, bipartisan jobs legislation that invested hundreds of millions of dollars in small businesses, gave firms hiring incentives, aligned education programs with jobs-in-demand, encouraged entrepreneurship and innovation, and eliminated red-tape for growing companies.

This spring, we balanced a budget by keeping our funding promise to cities and towns. Historic changes were made to our educational system so our children can succeed. We made it easier for people to exercise voting rights, and demanded that utility companies respond better when storms and crises hit. We also further protected victims of domestic violence.

I am proud to have fought for a budget that includes state funding for our towns, including additional funding for education and vital services to help stabilize our property taxes.

I hope this report is informative. I'm happy to answer any questions about these issues or any others. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,



Local Colchester students view the legislative process up close.

Fiscal Year 2012-2013 State Aid	Colchester	East Haddam
PILOT: State Owned Property	\$50,389	\$33,365
Town Aid Roads	\$173,468	\$166,925
Local Capital Improvement Program	\$120,273	\$89,721
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$74,116	\$29,438
Adult Education	\$25,622	\$5,448
School Transportation	\$213,976	\$69,583
Educational Cost Sharing	\$13,723,859	\$3,765,035
Total State Funds to the 48th District	\$14,381,703	\$4,159,515



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Linda is recognized by the Connecticut Chapter of the American Massage Therapy Association.

Illegal Massage Parlors

Sexually-oriented businesses sometimes masquerade as legitimate massage therapy parlors. They may act as conduits for human trafficking. I worked on legislation to further professionalize the massage therapy profession, making it harder to operate unlicensed facilities. This law will help protect good businesses and close the doors of bad ones.

Education Reform

The state's commitment to education is strong. The landmark education reform bill (SB 458) included an additional \$50 million in education funding for public schools across the state - yielding significant additional funding for Colchester and East Haddam.

Our boards of education have struggled mightily to find funding to cover increasing education costs. The additional state funding will help cover the costs associated with our local investment in young children.

The education bill contains funding increases for vocational schools, charter schools and magnet schools as well as the creation of a new kindergarten through 8th grade science initiative and 1,000 school readiness slots for preschoolers.

Jobs are Priority #1

We created new job opportunities for young people by funding the Youth Employment Summer Jobs program. We also supported adult evening education programs, as well as the Small Business Express program and a Connecticut Made initiative to promote products from local businesses. Additional high level job opportunities will result from economic development funding for the Jackson Labs project that builds on our decision to become a world leader in bioscience and biotechnology.

We recognize the challenges facing cities and towns and secured funding for municipalities, relieving pressure on local property taxes. Local investment can spur job growth.



Colchester Elementary School students visit for Computer Educators' Day with Media Specialists Barbara Johnson and Maureen Schlosser.

Storm Response and Power Outages

In the aftermath of the October Nor'easter and Tropical Storm Irene that left much of the state without power, the legislature passed sweeping reforms to better prepare for future severe storms and avoid wide-spread and lengthy loss of utility service, where:

- Utilities will be held to minimum performance standards for emergency preparation and response.
- Noncompliance could result in penalties of up to 2.5 percent of an electric or gas company's annual distribution revenue, approximately \$25 million in the case of Connecticut Light & Power.

Reducing Domestic Violence

We have made great progress in helping families affected by domestic violence in recent years, but the problem persists in our communities. Building on earlier successes, this year we strengthened the state's laws to better protect victims, hold abusers accountable, and give new tools to law enforcement by:

- Improving access to and enforcement of protective and restraining orders.
- Giving police officers new tools, including a model policy for responding to domestic violence incidents.
- Allowing victims to report email and texting violations of restraining and protective orders in the town where they reside, where they receive the communication or where the communication was initiated.
- Extending the maximum length of restraining orders from six months to one year.
- Ordering a feasibility study for a 911 texting system.
- Requiring the courts to share protective orders with schools that victims attend, upon request of a victim.
- Strengthening the definition of stalking to ensure that stalking incidents—including digital stalking—are appropriately punished.



Linda accepts the EMS Legislator Recognition Award.

Publishing Regulations Online

Laws have long been publicly available, but agency regulations - which are often just as important - have not been. Agency regulations must now be published on the Secretary of the State's website and on the websites of the individual agencies, allowing for online updating. Making this information easily accessible will modernize state government, making the process more transparent to citizens and businesses.