



Dear Friends,

It is the time of the year when I feel it is important to give you an update on the 2007 legislative session. My colleagues and I are working diligently to develop programs that help meet the needs of our residents. This newsletter will brief you on some of the issues which I thought you should be aware of and which could affect you and your family directly.

Many of the issues, such as the budget, electric rate relief, education funding, and health care reform are unresolved. This is very normal due to the length of the public hearing process and the need for committees to deliberate on all the bills submitted to them. As a result, most of the work of the General Assembly gets done in the last few weeks of the session. This year, our adjournment date is June 6th.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve all of you in the 137th district (Norwalk). I can always be reached at 1-800-842-8267 or by e-mail at: Chris.Perone@cga.ct.gov.

Representative Chris Perone

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION PREVIEW

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CHRIS PERONE



**Legislative Session
Update
2007**

*Representing
Norwalk*

Laying the Foundation for Connecticut's Future

Healthy Connecticut

Increasing Access and Comprehensive Affordable Healthcare For All of Connecticut's Residents:

The time has come to make healthcare available to all Connecticut residents, and we are working towards a policy that provides accessible, affordable healthcare that emphasizes portability and preventive healthcare.

- Make quality health coverage more affordable for all residents of the state.
- Create one system for the over 400,000 uninsured state residents.
- Better allocate public funds to more effectively cover low-income populations.

Public Safety

Strengthening Community Security and Wellness:

Our quality-of-life in Connecticut relies on strong enforcement combined with quality and effective support systems. In order for all our children to succeed, we need to address the gaps in services that keep them from reaching their potential.

- Increase funding for the expansion of after school programs.
- Reform the Juvenile Justice System.
- Increase police resources.
- Enhance access to mental health and substance abuse services in our criminal justice system.
- Provide safeguards for transitioning working families as they move from welfare to work.
- Expand the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Energy

Investing in Connecticut's Energy Future:

We have a responsibility to do whatever we can to ease the pain here in Connecticut, even though the problem of rising energy costs is the result of a failed national energy policy. In order to foster energy independence and relief for Connecticut ratepayers, we need to:

- Diversify our energy sources to reduce our reliance on oil.
- Promote the use of alternative fuels.
- Reform the unregulated current system for electricity with a comprehensive long-term energy plan.
- Provide incentives for improving efficiency and conservation efforts.
- Require the Department of Public Utility Control to educate the public about alternative electricity providers.

Property Tax Relief

A Helping Hand to Taxpayers and Municipalities:

Connecticut's property tax system closes off opportunities for taxpayers and municipalities to maintain or improve their quality-of-life. The goal is to find a solution that will provide actual property tax relief that addresses the core inequities of the property tax system.

- Increase state funding for public education to allow municipalities to lower property taxes.
- Link property tax relief to smart growth.
- Require inter-town cooperation and municipal service sharing in exchange for increased state aid.

Smart Growth and Transportation

Fueling Connecticut's Economic Engine by:

Building on last year's success, we will continue to enhance Connecticut's competitive edge in a global economy without sacrificing our quality-of-life.

- Fostering transit oriented development and responsible growth.
- Encouraging and expanding public transit use and establishing stable long-term financing for state-wide and local transportation infrastructure needs.
- Better preparing our students to meet the demands of the global economy.
- Improving our air and water quality.
- Promoting smart growth policies including preserving open space and preventing sprawl.
- Providing additional staff and resources for greater oversight of Department of Transportation projects.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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I am a member of the following committees:

Finance, Revenue & Bonding, Vice Chair

Transportation

Environment