

Dear Neighbor,

This year, we created a state budget that focused on preserving city and town budgets, increasing public education funding, and investing in transportation. Most people will see reductions in their car taxes and most municipalities will see increased funding through property tax reforms.

The new state budget also established long-term investments in transportation such as highways, buses and railways statewide. The improvements are needed to repair aging infrastructure such as bridges and support connections for commuters and businesses. Steps that will help our economy grow.

We aim to be competitive with neighboring states, especially with our business community. This year, we did this by continuing to fund a public education system and universities that produce highly skilled workers, and by keeping property taxes for businesses in check. Over the last few years, through the small business express program and economic development grants we have provided millions in funding loans to help retain and attract business.

I also wanted to let you know about some great news about recent job growth in Connecticut. Employers added more than 6,000 jobs in May and more than 24,000 jobs in the last year. Our unemployment rate has dropped to the lowest point in 7 years, and our labor force has grown to its largest size in almost 4 decades!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions by calling 800-842-8267 or emailing joseph.serra@cga.ct.gov.

All the best,



Joseph C. Serra, State Representative

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOSEPH C. SERRA

PROUDLY SERVING MIDDLETOWN

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JOSEPH C. SERRA

PROUDLY SERVING MIDDLETOWN

SUPPORTING OUR SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses are the backbone of our state and local economy. This budget increases municipal aid to help ease the property tax burden for working families and our state's many small businesses.

The legislature has consistently made small business a priority over the years by creating and expanding the Small Business Express program, which has created thousands of jobs across the state.

Through this effective program, the state has invested a total of \$1,937,500 here in Middletown to 11 companies creating 38 jobs and retaining 133 jobs.

STANDING UP FOR THE MIDDLE-CLASS

The budget we produced:

- Provides a 100% state income tax exemption for veteran's retirement pay.
- Preserves services for working families - after-school programs, libraries, and social services.
- Creates a long-term transportation plan to repair our crumbling roads and bridges and reduce traffic congestion.
- Caps the car tax mill rate at 32 in 2016 and at 29.36 in 2017, and sends additional property tax relief to towns.
- We made tough spending cuts while protecting essential family services.