



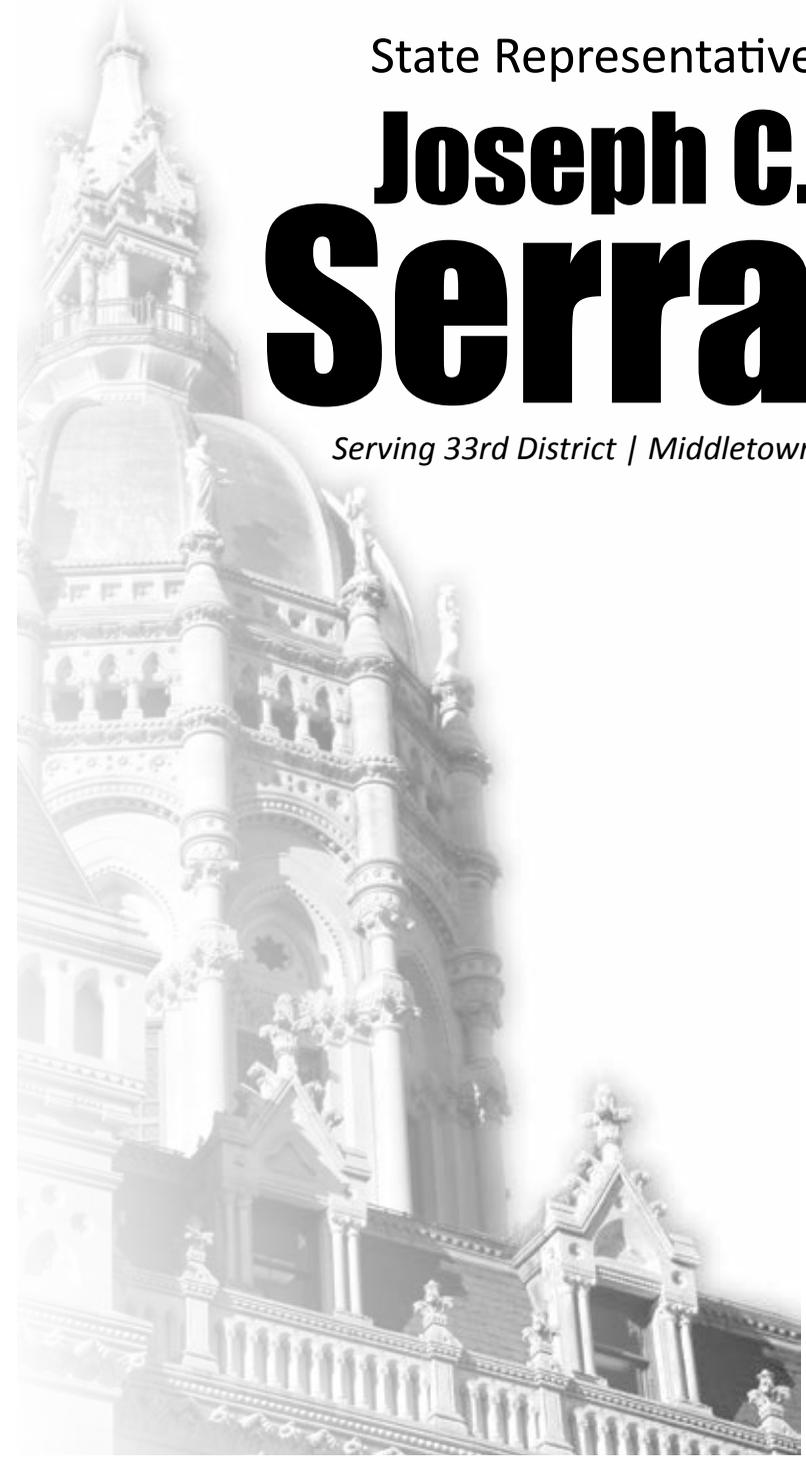
I want to thank you for your support and I look forward to continuing to serve as your voice at the State Capitol.

We are all facing difficult times as Connecticut turns the corner to economic recovery. I remain committed to working to bring a leaner, more efficient state government while ensuring the protection of our most vulnerable citizens and keeping essential services properly funded.

The 2013 Legislative Session is now underway. For this session, I have been re-appointed as the Chair of the Aging Committee, and as a member of the Transportation Committee, and Judiciary Committee. I am convinced that with your input and support, we can address the most pressing needs of our community.

Thank you for the honor of serving you.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2013!



State Representative  
**Joseph C. Serra**

*Serving 33rd District | Middletown*



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State Representative  
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## Supporting our Seniors

As Chair of the Aging Committee I am dedicated to helping our seniors in their later years. This is an important responsibility of government. Seniors face a variety of challenges such as maintaining their health and keeping up with the rising expenses on a fixed income. The legislature supports seniors in a number of ways including sending state funds to towns that help stabilize local property taxes, passing tough consumer protection laws and increasing grandparents' visitation rights. Looking ahead, expect to see proposals to help seniors keep their independence as their healthcare needs increase. I chaired a special task force on "aging in place" which will be recommending ways to help older adults safely, independently and comfortably remain in their homes.

## Veterans Status on Licenses

Beginning January, 2013, the Department of Motor Vehicles will begin issuing driver's licenses and ID cards that will include the symbol of the American Flag to identify veteran status.

To access the application, go to Veterans' Affairs website: [www.ct.gov/ctva](http://www.ct.gov/ctva) and click the "CT Veterans' ID information box" (left side). Submit completed application and proof of honorable discharge, such as a DD-214, to the CT Department of Veterans' Affairs at least 30 days prior to your license expiration. The 30 day prior submittal will allow Veterans' Affairs sufficient time to verify your military status and electronically notify DMV of your request prior to your on-site visit to DMV to attain the driver's license or ID card being issued.

**Mail completed application with copies  
of requested documents to:**

**CT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS,  
ATTN: VETERAN'S FLAG ON DRIVER LICENSE OR ID CARD,  
287 WEST ST., ROCKY HILL, CT 06067.**

## Education

Connecticut has a storied history of excellence in education but we still must strive to make our schools a top priority in 2013 as they face new challenges. In 2012, the legislature passed historic educational reforms, and now we must continue the work of implementing those important changes. Educating today's students for 21st Century jobs means closely aligning vocational-technical schools and community colleges with the needs of Connecticut industries. There are significant challenges, but they must be overcome to ensure not only the success of our children, but also Connecticut's prosperity.

## Job Growth is Job #1

To keep Connecticut economically competitive with neighboring states, we must further support business growth and job creation. Attracting businesses, training workers and providing incentives for them to remain in the state translates into a healthier local economy and better job opportunities. Consolidating and increasing tax credits for new hires, investing in emerging technologies and providing more employment for our veterans have shown great success but more needs to be done. Building a more educated workforce and a more business-friendly climate will allow Connecticut to thrive in the future.



## Distracted Driving Kills

Distracted Driving is any activity that diverts attention away from the primary task of driving. Did you know cell phone use was reported in 18% of distracted-related fatalities in the U.S. and that texting takes your eyes off the road for 4.6 seconds - at 55 mph, that's like driving an entire football field blindfolded! But, all distractions are dangerous including:

- Texting-worst offender
- Using a cell or smartphone
- Computers and electronic devices
- Eating & drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading (including maps)
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD or MP3 player

Remember, distracted driving is AGAINST THE LAW subject to fines and penalties. In CT there is:

- A ban on texting for all drivers
- A ban on handheld cell phone use for all drivers
- A ban on handheld cell and hands-free use for novice drivers
- A ban on all cell phone use for bus drivers