

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
WILLIAM TONG

To my friends and neighbors,

The learning curve has been quick and steep, but I'm pleased to report that our local agenda is off to a fast start in the State Capitol. Since taking the oath of office on January 3, 2007, I've joined the Judiciary, Energy & Technology and Commerce Committees. I'm on the front lines of a comprehensive energy bill that fights the rising costs of energy and addresses our long-term energy needs. And as for unfair gas prices—introducing an anti-zone pricing bill was one of the first things I did when I got to Hartford.

I'm working hard on my transportation proposals, introducing legislation to create a Department of Mass Transit. My colleagues and I have introduced a far-reaching Education Cost Sharing reform bill, and we're pushing a bill to deal with those intrusive "robocalls." And you may recall that I spoke often of youth violence in Stamford and the attack on my mother several years ago; I introduced major legislation to fight violent crime and the spread of illegal firearms.

On a personal note, January 3rd was a proud and special day for my family. It was an honor to be sworn in as the very first Asian American elected at the state level in Connecticut's history. But the day was so much more for my parents and grandparents. After coming here as immigrants, after working so hard in this state for nearly 40 years, they were happy, and more than a little relieved, that their American journey brought them to the floor of our State House. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and to be part of your lives—none of this would have been possible without your support.

Thank you again for your trust and confidence. I look forward to updating you again in my next report.

Until then... back to work.



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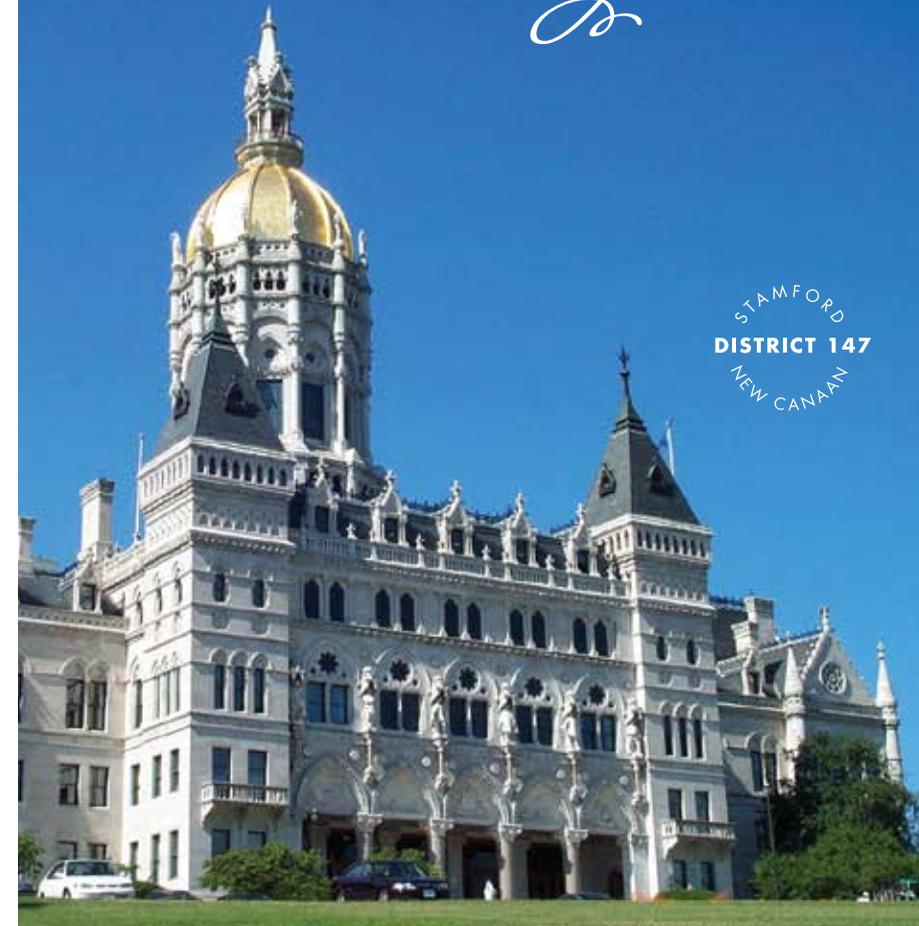
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REPORT FROM THE

State Capitol



STAMFORD
DISTRICT 147
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM TONG



JANUARY 3, 2007 (HARTFORD COURANT)

Representative Tong shortly after taking the oath of office.

Some of the major bills William has introduced this session include:

ENERGY & GAS PRICES

HB0679—AN ACT CONCERNING GASOLINE ZONE PRICING, EFFICIENCY STANDARDS FOR REPLACEMENT TIRES, GASOLINE STATION CASH DISCOUNTS AND GASOLINE FRANCHISEE RIGHTS OF FIRST REFUSAL. To ban gasoline zone pricing, to require replacement tires for passenger motor vehicles to meet certain fuel efficiency standards, to prohibit persons furnishing gasoline to retail distributors from prohibiting such distributors from offering cash discounts for gasoline purchases, and to extend the right of first refusal to gasoline franchisees.

EDUCATION

HB05906—AN ACT CONCERNING REFORMATION OF THE EQUALIZATION AID GRANT CALCULATION. To reform the ECS formula so that it better reflects a community's need for state assistance in education funding and school construction reimbursement.

SB00920—AN ACT CONCERNING STAMFORD'S SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAM. To provide financial assistance for Stamford's efforts to expand its existing and highly successful school readiness program through the creation of a laboratory school and related teacher training activities.

PROPERTY TAXES

HB05645—AN ACT CONCERNING INCOME QUALIFICATION FOR THE MUNICIPAL OPTION TO PROVIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF TO CERTAIN ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS (Co-Sponsor). To give municipalities an additional tool to protect seniors, who may own their home but live on fixed incomes, from the sudden increase in real property taxes caused by revaluation.

ROBO-CALLS

HB05984—AN ACT TO PROTECT CITIZENS FROM ABUSIVE AND OPPRESSIVE AUTOMATED POLITICAL TELEPHONE CALLS. To prevent abusive and misleading use of automated telephone solicitation technologies and automatic dialing-announcing devices.

TRANSPORTATION

HB05784—AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS TRANSIT. To establish the Department of Mass Transit, which shall have cognizance over all mass transit in the state.

HB06365—AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SPRINGDALE TRAIN STATION IN STAMFORD (Co-Sponsor). To provide funds to Stamford for improvements at the Springdale Train Station, thereby encouraging residents to utilize the station and to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for commuters.

PUBLIC HEALTH

HB06701—AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LYME DISEASE TASK FORCE. To establish a task force to study and make recommendations about a state-wide plan for controlling Lyme disease.

HB05747—AN ACT REQUIRING NOTIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF POSITIVE LYME DISEASE RESULTS (Co-Sponsor). To mandate that clinical laboratories notify the Department of Public Health of all cases of positive Lyme Disease results.

CRIME PREVENTION

HB06901—AN ACT FIGHTING VIOLENT CRIME ARISING FROM LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS. To fight violent crime that results from the illegal trade and distribution of firearms that have been lost by or stolen from legitimate gun owners, identify individuals furthering and profiting from such trade and distribution and give law enforcement the tools necessary to fight violent crime by requiring an owner to report the loss or theft of a firearm promptly upon discovery to local law enforcement authorities.

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