



Connecticut Budget Update

In talking with many of you about our current economic situation, I am often asked questions about Connecticut's revenue sources and the budget process. Here is a brief description of our state budget to help answer some of those questions.

We are currently working to reduce spending and make government more efficient, while protecting Connecticut's critical services and jobs. Please feel free to contact me if you have concerns or suggestions about budget priorities, places and programs to cut, and ways to fairly raise revenue.



State Representative

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A National Economic Crisis

Connecticut is one of 46 states facing budget shortfalls

Connecticut has the 5th biggest deficit nationally as a percentage of General Fund for 2009–2010

- » Nevada – 30%
- » Arizona – 29.8%
- » California – 25.6%
- » New York – 24.3%
- » Connecticut – 23.1%

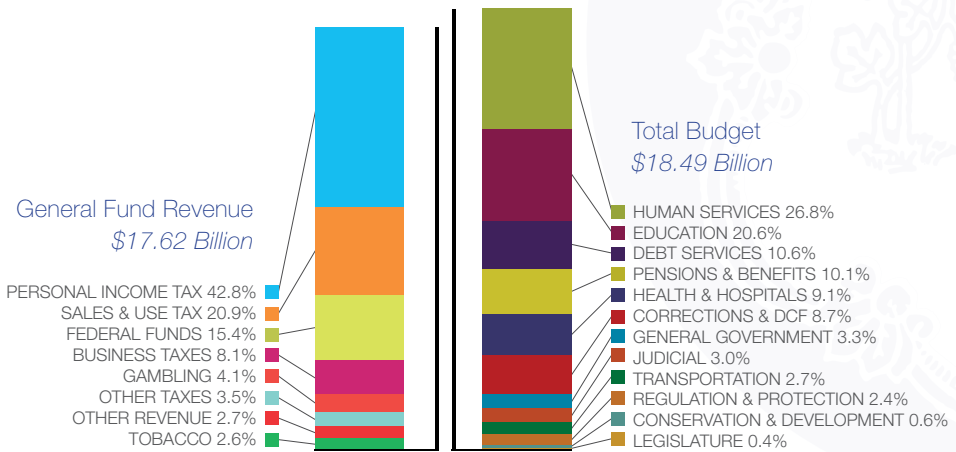
What's at stake?

- » 26 states have cut K-12 education funding
- » 32 states have cut or are considering cuts to higher education
- » 28 states have curtailed public health programs
- » 38 states have made or are proposing cuts affecting state workforces
- » 22 states have cut programs for elderly and disabled

Connecticut's Budget Process

February	March	April	May	June
<i>Governor presents budget to General Assembly</i>	<i>General Assembly reviews governor's budget recommendations, holds public hearings, debates, and makes budget adjustments</i>	<i>Appropriations & Finance Committees make recommendations on expenditures & revenue</i>	<i>Negotiations reconcile governor's budget with General Assembly budget</i>	<i>General Assembly votes on a final budget Governor signs budget</i>

Connecticut's Current Budget FY 09



Options Democrats are proposing:

- » A well-balanced approach that has true shared sacrifice.
- » Creating a fair revenue system.
- » Restructuring government to create efficiencies.
- » Embracing Results Based Accountability (RBA) to set outcome goals across departmental lines and instruct agencies to report performance information with budget requests.
- » Making long term investments in smart government.
- » Significant budget cuts.
- » Labor concessions from state workers.
- » Protecting our economically vulnerable citizens and businesses so we can keep people working.

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