



Representative Zoni joined other colleagues to tour Lake Compounce in celebration of its 169th Anniversary. The attraction is an important boost to the area's economy.

### RESOURCE SERVICE CONTACT PERSON

Streamlining access to programs and assistance for our veterans was one of our priorities this session. A new law requires cities and towns that do not have a current veterans' service contact person to appoint a town employee to serve as that contact who will act as an ombudsman who can guide veterans to the appropriate local, state or federal resources.

### STATE MILITARY RELIEF PERSONNEL

Military service often creates hardship for families. The Military Relief Fund provides grants to help these families pay for certain essential household goods or services. New legislation expands eligibility for these grants.

### IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

#### SYNCHRONIZING PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

This legislation helps seniors and small pharmacies by simplifying the prescription refill process. The law:

- Requires insurance providers to allow for refills of multiple prescription medications at the same time.
- Helps small pharmacies cut down on overhead costs by delivering to a specific house only once a month.



Representative Zoni and Representative Aresimowicz are visited by members of the AARP Organization.

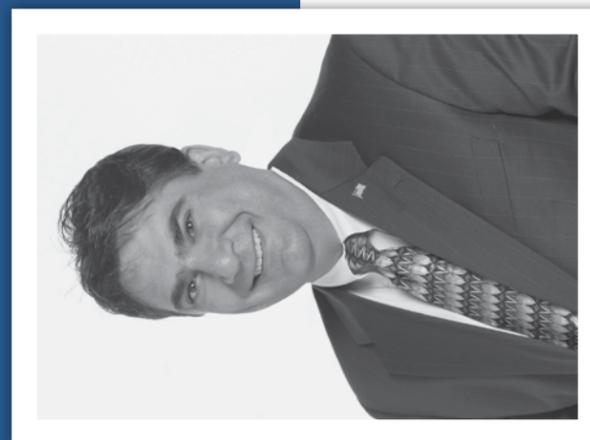
### LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

This legislation encourages local community leaders to address the aging services needs of their area. Connecticut's model of "Aging in Place" keeps our seniors in their homes, is paramount to their well-being and saves money. The state will establish partnerships with municipal leaders to encourage collaborative efforts for long-term care planning.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**David Zoni**  
PROUDLY SERVING SOUTHTON | 81ST DISTRICT

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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE **David Zoni**

PROUDLY SERVING SOUTHTON  
81ST DISTRICT



Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your State Representative for the Town of Southington. I'd like to share with you some of the highlights of the 2013 legislative session, my freshman year. I would also like to thank those of you who have reached out to me to express your opinions on legislation. Your views and insights really do matter.

This legislative session proved to be difficult as we faced balancing the state budget as the economy continues to recover slowly. We were able to do this with great success: we added no new taxes, avoided cuts to municipalities, made increased investments in education and maintained the safety net for our most vulnerable residents. I am particularly proud that we removed an "Energy Auction" proposal from the budget that could have increased energy prices for seniors.

I am also excited to inform you that my colleagues and I were instrumental in securing state grants totaling more than \$50 million for the school building projects for Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School and John F. Kennedy Middle School. This renovation and expansion is greatly needed and will revitalize these institutions.

Please feel free to contact my office for any assistance or concerns you may have. It is my pleasure to serve you and I am always here for you.

Sincerely,

David Zoni

# CAPITOL NEWS 2013

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# DAVID ZONI

PROUDLY SERVING SOUTHTON | 81ST DISTRICT

[WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/ZONI](http://WWW.HOUSEDEMS.CT.GOV/ZONI)



**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE OR HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ME:**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**DAVID ZONI**

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## **DOING MORE TO SAVE TOWNS MONEY**

The Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies Commission was developed to help our towns. Our primary goal has been to lower costs at the municipal level and reduce over-reliance on regressive property taxes. This year's legislation, which originated in the MORE Commission on which I serve, gives municipalities more tools to save money through regional cooperation, including the common school-year calendar and access to the statewide fiber-optic Nutmeg Network. This will help municipal governments and boards of education better meet their budget challenges and provide property tax relief to their residents. This is an ongoing commission that will evaluate different proposals to determine efficiencies at the municipal level. We anticipate enacting future legislation.

## **INCREASING THE MANUFACTURING APPRENTICESHIP TAX CREDIT**

Despite high unemployment in many job sectors, many manufacturing businesses have difficulty recruiting and training skilled workers to fill vacant positions. The manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit program assists small- to mid-sized manufacturers by giving an annual tax credit for hiring apprentices in the manufacturing trades. This bill increases the amount from \$4800 to \$7500 or 50% of wages paid, whichever is less. It also changes the dollar amount for calculating the credit amount from \$4 to \$6.

## **PREVENT PRICE-GOUGING IN STORMS**

This bill protects residents from businesses who take advantage of customers during major storms and prevents price-gouging following extreme weather storms.



Representative Zoni researching upcoming legislation.



Representative Zoni takes a moment to speak with Town Council members John Barry, Dawn Miceli and Chris Palmieri.



Representative Zoni and Senator Markley are visited by 5th graders from Hatton Elementary School.

## **CONNECTICUT'S HEALTHCARE**

The federal health reform law requires states to offer individuals, families and small employers a range of health care coverage through a health insurance exchange. On October 1, 2013 Access Health CT became Connecticut's new health insurance marketplace. It was created to make healthcare coverage accessible to all Connecticut residents. It is where people and small businesses can go to get help with their insurance costs and to find out if they qualify. The first open enrollment period has already begun and will close March 31, 2014. For information about this service visit their website at [www.accesshealthcarect.com](http://www.accesshealthcarect.com) or call 1-855-805-4325.

## **CONNECTICUT'S CLEAN ENERGY GOALS**

### **Electric Supplier Disclosure Requirements**

This new law ensures that consumers are aware of electric rate changes by requiring suppliers to notify residential customers of proposed rate changes 30 to 60 days before their fixed rate term expires.

## **CONDOMINIUMS**

Condominium associations can recoup a greater amount of unpaid common fees. **House Bill 6447** increased the priority lien from six to nine months. This will help reduce fees for unit owners who pay their bills on time. It also subjects condominium property managers to disciplinary actions for violating condominium law.

## **SMALL BUSINESS EXPRESS PROGRAM**

This legislation creates jobs by helping small businesses in the state through the Small Business Express program implemented in the special session of June 2012. It adds money to the Small Business Express program that provides loans and matching grants to businesses with 100 or fewer employees. Funds were moved from the Manufacturing Assistance Act program into the Small Business Express account so that more funds will be available for this very successful program that has helped many small businesses in the state to create jobs.

## **LOCAL SCHOOLS RECEIVE STATE FUNDING**

The town of Southington was approved to receive just over \$50 million for two school projects. These funds will be used on construction projects for the Joseph A. DePaolo Middle School and the John F. Kennedy Middle School. This is very exciting for the town of Southington.

## **COMMUNITY CULTURAL ARTS CENTER**

I am pleased to announce that the town of Southington has received funding for the Community Cultural Arts Center. The Southington delegation was instrumental in securing \$500,000 from the State Bond Commission. The Arts Center will give young people the opportunity to discover and improve their talents.

## **GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD (GMOs)**

This law makes Connecticut the first state to pass a genetically modified organisms labeling law. By requiring foods to be labeled under certain circumstances, this legislation would allow consumers to know whether their foods contain (GMOs) and make individual and informed decisions about whether to consume them. The requirement becomes effective once similar laws are enacted in four states, including one that borders Connecticut, with an aggregate population totaling 20 million.

## **HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS**

<b>INFOLINE</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>CT Veterans Affairs</b>	<b>1-866-928-8387</b>
<b>Dept. of Social Services</b>	<b>1-800-842-1508</b>
<b>Energy Assistance</b>	<b>860-560-5800</b>
<b>Healthcare Advocate</b>	<b>1-866-466-4446</b>
<b>Labor Department</b>	<b>860-566-5790</b>

