



### Keep your eyes on the Road

As incidents of distracted driving continue and cell phone technology advances, we updated our laws to keep our roads safe.

- » The cell phone ban is now extended to texting
- » Fines for using a cell phone while driving are increased

### Strengthening Connecticut Schools

The difference in the achievement levels among Connecticut schools is one of the highest in the nation. We took steps to help turn around low-achieving schools, increase our chances for federal education dollars, improve our vocational high schools and help students with autism. This bill was a major recommendation of my bipartisan Program Review & Investigations Committee. In parallel legislation, we also recommended a stronger state effort to link higher education to the job market so new graduates get immediate jobs. Our proposal includes a cabinet-level strategic plan and mandatory data sharing between the Department of Labor and state universities to match workforce needs with education.

This legislation:

- » Strengthens the state's application for federal Race to the Top education funds
- » Develops new programs to help turn around low-achieving schools
- » Requires public hearings before school closures and increases parent involvement
- » Ensures adequate staff and supplies
- » Makes sure students with autism get quality services through their special education individualized education plans (IEP)
- » Improves vocational schools by adding members with manufacturing and vocational education experience to the state Board of Education

State Representative  
**MARY MUSHINSKY**

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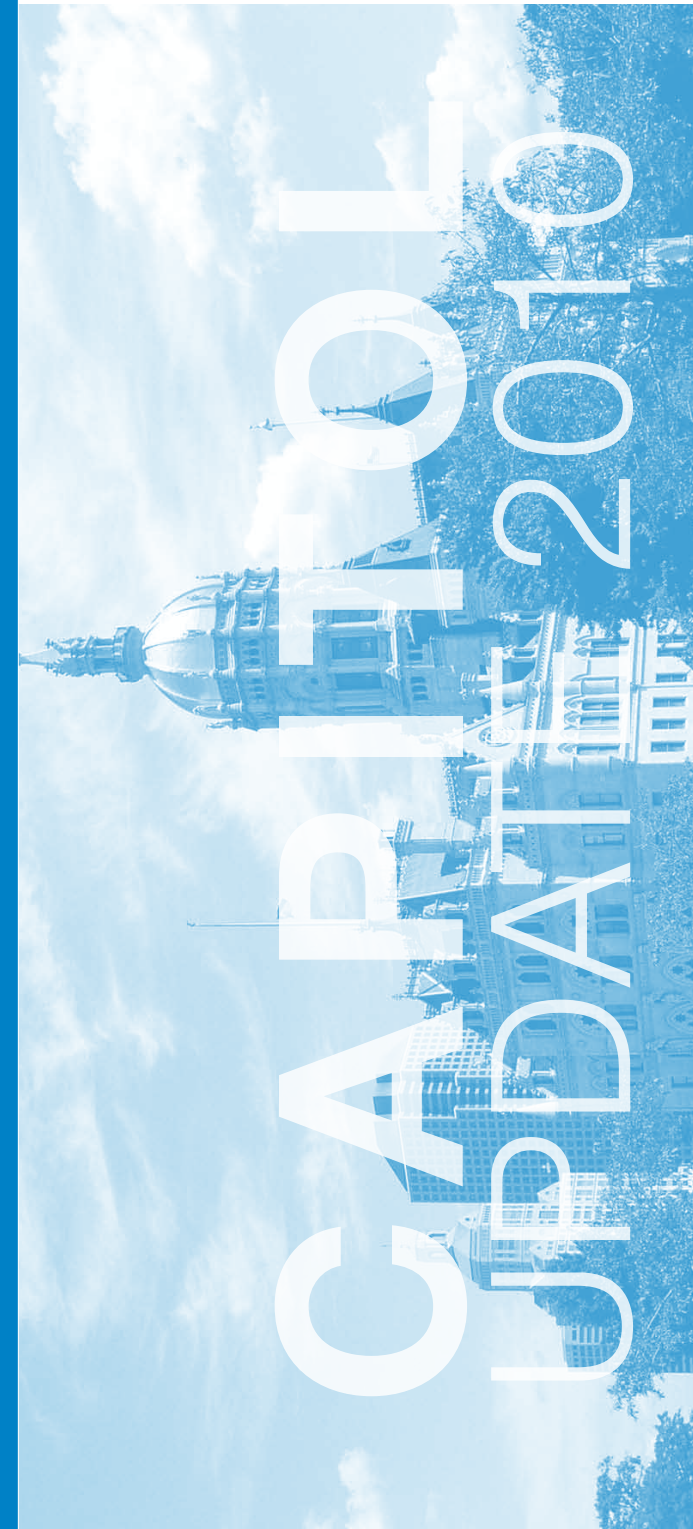


State Representative  
**Mary Mushinsky**  
Serving Wallingford | 85<sup>th</sup> District

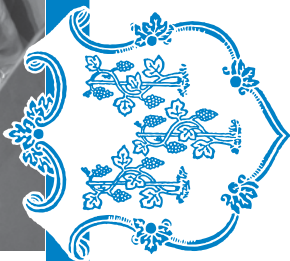
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State Representative  
**Mary Mushinsky**  
Serving Wallingford | 85<sup>th</sup> District



State Representative

# Mary Mushinsky

Serving Wallingford | 85<sup>th</sup> District



If you need additional assistance or have questions, please contact me.

## State Representative Mary Mushinsky

Capitol Phone 860.240.8585

District Phone 203.269.8378

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### Important phone numbers

To reach many state services, call InfoLine **211**

ConnPACE 800.423.5026

Medicare Hotline 800.633.4227

Long-Term Care 800.547.3443

Commission on Aging 860.240.5200

Medicare Advocacy 800.262.4414

Consumer Protection 800.842.2649

CT Veterans Affairs 860.616.3600

CT Elder Services 866.218.6631

Health Care Advocate 866.466.4446

## Towns Save by Working Together

### Regional Services May Provide Tax Relief

Wallingford can now team-up with other towns to save money while delivering necessary services.

House Speaker Christopher G. Donovan created the blue ribbon commission on Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies (MORE). The Commission was charged with initiating a new approach to state and local government in Connecticut that would make our state more economically competitive in the short and long term.

Over the coming year, additional opportunities for cost savings will be discussed with local government officials and business leaders – all working together to encourage more cooperation between towns.

*This year we worked for:*

- » Cost savings by allowing towns to join the state in bulk purchasing of prescription drugs
- » Saving money on school transportation by giving grants to towns that work together to provide transportation services
- » Health insurance savings by allowing two or more municipalities or boards of education to purchase employee health benefits



Sheenan High School Boys Basketball Team State Champions being honored in the House Chamber

## A BALANCED BUDGET for CONNECTICUT

### – On Time and On Target

Partnering with Governor Rell, we balanced the state's budget – on time and without any tax increases. The budget contains no cuts in municipal aid or education funds (ECS).

This year's budget bill included \$163 million in new spending cuts across a host of state agencies and a reduction of \$300 million from a previous borrowing plan.

The spending cuts are deep, but necessary.

*We erased a \$10 billion deficit, balancing the budget on time and on target.*

We protected the services critically important to Wallingford, including:

- » Funding for programs that assist seniors and the disabled hospitals, schools, libraries and courthouse.

*Rep. Mary Mushinsky congratulates UCONN Women's Basketball Team on winning another NCAA Championship*



*We also provided a helping hand, through:*

- » \$500 individual property tax credit to help offset local property taxes
- » Funding for programs that help prevent mortgage foreclosure

*Additional good news for state residents this summer:*

- » We reduced last year's increase on state park fees and fishing/hunting licenses
- » Provided credit for fishing and hunting licenses overpayment

## A Voice for Tenants

Our bill, vetoed by the Governor, would have allowed public housing authority tenants to elect their own tenant commissioner.

### Town Aid for Wallingford FY2010-2011

Education Cost Sharing Grant	\$21,440,233
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$273,681
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$296,322
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$452,224
Pequot/Mohegan Aid	\$168,874
School Transportation	\$449,473
Total State Funds Wallingford	\$23,364,308



Rep. Mushinsky admires Ian Christmann's "Consider the Quinnipiac" exhibit at the Capitol

## Creating Jobs

*Number One Priority - Dig Out of the Recession*

Working with the Governor, we passed a significant new jobs bill that will help put Connecticut on the road to economic recovery with:

- » Up to \$500,000 in loans and lines of credit for small business and nonprofits
- » Student loan reimbursement for careers in new and emerging fields

- » Personal income tax credits for investments in new technology businesses
- » Sales tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel in renewable energy industries
- » Tax credits for small businesses of up to \$200 per month, per new employee
- » Up to \$150,000 in pre-seed financing and technical services to innovative businesses
- » Faster business permitting process
- » Changes to the film tax credit program that will create more jobs in Connecticut

## Saluting Our Veterans Good News for Seniors

- » Veterans in nursing homes can now use the VA as their pharmacy, saving money for veterans and taxpayers
- » Active duty service members out of state will get an extension for 30 days to renew their expired driver's licenses
- » March 30th is now designated as the official Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Day
- » Veterans can now use their military service experience and training as academic credit for certain technical certificates and licenses

- » Reduced seniors' cost-share for the state-funded Home Care Program for Elders from 15% to 6% – average savings almost \$100 per month (endorsed by AARP)
- » Re-opened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program that provides up to 30 days of respite care relief to family caregivers
- » Protected seniors' assets up to \$110,000 when a spouse enters a nursing home under Medicaid

State Representative

## MARY MUSHINSKY

To receive more information on any of the following issues, e-mail, call or mail me the completed form. Make sure to give your name, address and email, and indicate which issues you're interested in.

- 2010 Major Acts
- Business
- Criminal Justice
- Health Care
- Environment
- Jobs
- Seniors
- Energy
- Children
- Education

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