



## 2010 Major Issues

While it's difficult to summarize all of the legislative initiatives we are considering this year, I want to share with you a brief overview of some of the hottest topics.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you; if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, the budget, or any other state matter, please feel free to contact me.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE *of the* CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## STATE BUDGET

During the 2010 session, we face projected budget shortfalls for the current fiscal year (FY 10) and FY 11 which may require spending reductions. Meanwhile, state revenues continue to lag, despite tax and fee increases we enacted in 2009. Faced with lower revenues and projections for continued General Fund deficits, we also may consider proposals to increase certain taxes and restructure business tax credits to stimulate job growth.

## TOLLS

Reinstating tolls may generate new revenue, but federal laws restrict how states may use tolls, particularly on interstate highways. We intend to ask the DOT to make recommendations to us regarding tolls in early 2011.

## ALCOHOL SALES

Our state prohibits alcohol sales on Sunday and selling wine in grocery stores. We may consider lifting the Sunday ban and allowing grocery stores to sell wine.

## MUNICIPAL FINANCES

To reduce some of the pressure on local budgets, we will investigate:

- » Authorizing local sales taxes
- » Increasing the municipal share of the real estate conveyance tax
- » Eliminating unfunded state mandates, and
- » Fully funding payments in lieu of taxes

Since school districts also argue that state-imposed mandates make it more difficult to fund education, we likely will examine suspending or eliminating some of these mandates.

## VOTING AND VOTER REGISTRATION

Currently, 32 states permit no-excuse, in-person early voting, and 29 states permit no-excuse absentee voting, but Connecticut limits the ability of electors to vote by absentee ballot. We may review proposals to amend the state constitution to permit no-excuse early or absentee voting.



## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

A federal judge has ruled that our Citizens' Election Program is unconstitutional because it burdens minor party candidates' rights to political opportunity & burdens First Amendment speech rights. We will hear proposals to respond to the court's concerns and fix the program.



*If you need additional assistance or have questions, contact:*

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