



2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BUDGET & PROPERTY TAXES

- Maintain the integrity of the state’s fiscal guardrails to ensure that the state continues to pay down unfunded pension liabilities, while making minor adjustments to ensure that municipal aid is adequately funded.
- Ensure that municipalities can continue funding certain programs by addressing gaps resulting from cuts in federal spending.
- Refrain from adopting any new or expanded property tax exemptions or caps which shift a greater tax burden onto homeowners and businesses.

EDUCATION

- Increase the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) foundation level, which has not been adjusted since 2013, and index the level to inflation to provide adequate funding for all school districts.
- Continue to increase special education funding and reduce the excess cost threshold to reimburse school districts more fully for costs.
- Provide towns with greater flexibility and certainty under the Minimum Budget Requirement to help towns control education spending and exclude excess cost expenditures from the calculation.
- Support increased funding for the District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) Program to assist municipalities in maintaining school buildings.

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

- Eliminate the benefit charge from electric bills and support other changes to reduce costs for customers.
- Include municipal representation on the CT Siting Council to ensure the impact of proposed facilities on a community is fully considered and that certain towns do not bear a disproportionate burden for hosting facilities.
- Prioritize the siting of solar arrays and other renewable energy projects on brownfields, rooftops, car ports, and other developed lands to address concerns regarding the proliferation of such projects on farmland, forest lands, and open space areas.



ENVIRONMENT

- Develop and implement statewide, enforceable policies to address municipal solid waste management concerns, including 1) expanding efforts to promote organics collection and recycling; 2) increasing the capacity of in-state waste disposal options; 3) developing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for additional products; 4) supporting glass only recycling programs and facilitating the use of recycled glass in more products; and 5) enhancing public education and outreach efforts to promote recycling.
- Increase funding available to assist municipalities in testing and remediating soil and wells contaminated with PFAS, road salt, and other contaminants.

HOUSING

- Support the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority's efforts to promote transit-oriented development.
- Assist municipalities in expanding water and wastewater capacity to support housing development where appropriate, including establishing an interagency working group to facilitate projects.
- Assist small towns in complying with sweeping new housing laws, including providing guidance and technical assistance, and clarifying certain provisions.
- Amend 8-30g, the Affordable Housing Appeals Process, by: 1) providing greater protection for environmentally sensitive lands; and 2) considering naturally occurring affordable housing and other housing units in determining whether a municipality has met its threshold.

MANDATE RELIEF

- Continue to work with the State Comptroller's Office to address concerns with the Municipal Employees Retirement System, including developing a defined contribution plan for new hires.
- Reduce costs and administrative burdens associated with early voting requirements.
- Allow towns to post legal notices on municipal websites rather than in newspapers, consistent with state agencies and courts.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- Address concerns regarding the delivery of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by 1) ensuring that additional investments in Medicaid include EMS providers and services, and 2) adjusting mileage reimbursement rates.



- Continue to enhance efforts to address the state's opioid crisis, including developing effective local and regional strategies for utilizing opioid settlement funds.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Continue to strengthen laws to assist municipalities in addressing speeding and reckless driving concerns, including the use of automated traffic enforcement tools.
- Continue to support a cost-effective state Resident Trooper program, which provides essential public safety services in many small towns.

REGIONAL/SHARED SERVICES

- Support efforts to facilitate cost effective regional/shared services programs, including addressing impediments to consolidation/regionalization.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Work with the state's colleges, universities, and technical high schools to develop and expand certificate and other education and training programs to prepare individuals for careers in the municipal sector.



2026 Legislative Platform

BUDGET & FINANCE ISSUES

- 1) Maintain the integrity of the state's fiscal guardrails to ensure that the state continues to pay down unfunded pension liabilities while making minor adjustments to ensure that municipal aid is adequately funded.
- 2) Support investment in local infrastructure by 1) continuing to adequately fund the Town Aid Road program, the Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP), and Clean Water Fund, and releasing funding in a timely manner; and 2) increasing from 50% to 75% the amount the state provides to municipalities under the Local Bridge Program to repair small bridges and culverts.
- 3) Refrain from adopting any new or expanded property tax exemptions or caps which shift a greater tax burden onto homeowners and businesses.
- 4) Ensure that municipalities can rely on stable revenue sources by addressing issues related to cuts in federal spending.
- 5) Continue to increase funding for Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) programs to adequately reimburse municipalities for lost property tax revenues due to state mandated exemptions.

- 6) Increase funding for municipalities under the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan grant program.
- 7) Ensure that the state provides adequate funding to reimburse municipalities for lost revenues under the car tax cap.
- 8) Provide towns with stable, alternative revenue sources, such as allocating a percentage of the sales tax revenues to towns or authorizing towns to charge a fee for tax exempt properties equal to the services provided for police, fire, emergency services, and roads.

EDUCATION

- 1) Support increased investment in education by 1) increasing the foundation level under the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grant and indexing the amount to inflation; 2) increasing special education funding and requiring the state to pay 100% of the costs of special education for severe-needs students; and 3) eliminating general education tuition billing for magnet schools, Agri-science programs, and charter schools.
- 2) Adequately fund the state's Alliance School Districts to ensure that they can meet the needs of their students.
- 3) Provide towns with greater flexibility and certainty under the



Minimum Budget Requirement to help towns control education spending and exclude excess cost expenditures from the calculation.

- 4) Provide adequate funding to assist school districts in upgrading HVAC systems to improve air quality.
- 5) Address issues with respect to regional school districts related to the Average Daily Membership and the municipal spending cap.
- 6) Continue to promote efforts to ensure that municipalities and boards of education work together to consolidate non-educational expenditures and functions to improve efficiencies and reduce costs.
- 7) Facilitate the ability of local and regional boards of education to share certain educational services, such as foreign language instruction, curriculum development, Advanced Placement courses, and special education.
- 8) Support increased funding for the District Repair and Improvement Project (DRIP) Program to assist municipalities in maintaining school buildings.

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

- 1) Include municipal representation on the CT Siting Council to ensure the impact of proposed facilities on a community is fully considered and that certain towns do not bear a

disproportionate burden for hosting facilities.

- 2) Address rising electric costs which are imposing a burden on residents and local businesses, including eliminating the benefit charge from bills.
- 3) Authorize towns to use municipal aggregation to manage energy costs and risks at the local level.
- 4) Support efforts to incorporate energy efficiency standards in state building codes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 1) Set aside a portion of the state's brownfield remediation grants to assist small towns in cleaning up contaminated properties.
- 2) Continue to fund the Small Town Economic Assistance Program to assist towns in funding vital economic and community development initiatives.

ENVIRONMENT

- 1) Develop and implement statewide, enforceable policies to address municipal solid waste management concerns, including 1) expanding efforts to promote organics collection and recycling; 2) increasing the capacity of in-state waste disposal options; 3) developing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for additional products; 4) supporting



- glass only recycling programs and facilitating the use of recycled glass in more products; and 5) enhancing public education and outreach efforts to promote recycling.
- 2) Provide funding and technical assistance to towns to assist in complying with the MS4 Stormwater General Permit.
 - 3) Increase funding for the state's Clean Water program to assist municipalities in addressing wastewater issues and meeting federal EPA requirements.
 - 4) Strengthen the state's Invasive Species program to combat invasive species in lakes and other water resources, including expediting permitting.
 - 5) Increase funding for DEEP's Linear Trail Network to maintain trails and support active recreation including cycling and other non-motorized activities.
 - 6) Expand funding and support for farmland protection and farming operations.
- 3) Assist municipalities in expanding water and wastewater capacity to support housing development where appropriate, including establishing an interagency working group to facilitate projects.
 - 4) Increase funding for programs to support homelessness prevention and response efforts.
 - 5) Amend 8-30g, the Affordable Housing Appeals Process, by: 1) providing greater protection for environmentally sensitive lands; and 2) considering naturally occurring affordable housing and other housing units in determining whether a municipality has met its threshold.

MANDATE RELIEF

HOUSING

- 1) Support the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority's efforts to promote transit-oriented development.
- 2) Assist small towns in complying with sweeping new housing laws, including providing guidance and technical assistance, and clarifying certain provisions.
- 3) Reduce costs and administrative burdens associated with early voting requirements.
- 4) Reject efforts to require municipalities to enroll police and firefighters in the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS) or a comparable or



superior program, which would strain local budgets.

- 5) Allow towns to post legal notices on municipal websites rather than newspapers, consistent with state agencies and courts.
- 6) Eliminate the requirement that municipalities store evicted tenants' possessions.
- 7) Increase the prevailing wage threshold for new municipal public works projects from \$1 million to \$3 million and for renovations from \$100,000 to \$500,000.
- 8) Address burdens associated with the proliferation of Freedom of Information requests generated by for-profit organizations.

PUBLIC HEALTH

- 1) Support efforts to control rising health insurance costs for municipal employers.
- 2) Address concerns regarding the delivery of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by 1) ensuring that additional investments in Medicaid include EMS providers, and 2) adjusting mileage reimbursement rates.
- 3) Continue to enhance efforts to address the state's opioid crisis, including developing effective local and regional strategies for utilizing opioid settlement funds.
- 4) Increase funding available to assist municipalities in testing and remediating soil and wells

contaminated with PFAS, road salt, and other contaminants.

- 5) Increase the availability of and access to healthcare options in rural areas.
- 6) Address the growing needs of CT's youth by supporting the work of the Youth Service Bureaus.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- 1) Provide support to ensure that municipalities can participate in the statewide public safety radio system to enhance interoperability and expand coverage.
- 2) Continue to strengthen laws to assist municipalities in addressing speeding and reckless driving concerns, including permitting the continued use of automated traffic enforcement tools.
- 3) Accelerate the implementation of a surcharge on phone lines to adequately fund the Firefighter Cancer Relief Account.
- 4) Continue to support a cost-effective state Resident Trooper program, which provides essential public safety services in many small towns.
- 5) Assist fire departments in transitioning from volunteer to paid fire departments and emergency management services (EMS) and provide incentives for regionalizing fire and EMS.
 - 6) Coordinate efforts among the state, towns, and utilities to remove dead and decaying trees



along roads and other public areas.

transportation projects beyond the planning phase to include design, right-of-way, and construction.

REGIONAL/SHARED SERVICES

- 1) Continue to adequately fund the regional Councils of Government to facilitate shared service approaches, including the development of regional housing growth plans.
- 3) Address collective bargaining issues that are an impediment to consolidation/regionalization.
- 4) Authorize regional approaches to state mandated programs and services, such as stormwater management and special education.
- 5) Reinstate funding for the Intertown Capital Equipment Fund to provide grants to municipalities to jointly acquire equipment and vehicles.
- 6) Expand the role of the regional Councils of Government to allow them to assist municipalities in moving forward with local

TRANSPORTATION

- 1) Address regional transportation priorities to ease congestion on highways and enhance bus and rail service.
- 2) Continue to invest in upgrading the state's multimodal transportation infrastructure, including passenger and freight rail service.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- 1) Work with the state's colleges, universities, and technical high schools to develop and expand certificate and other education and training programs to prepare individuals for careers in the municipal sector.