



2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

BUDGET & PROPERTY TAXES

- Assist municipalities in leveraging state and federal infrastructure funding by 1) establishing a competitive grant program to assist municipalities in meeting federal match requirements; and 2) providing greater flexibility to municipalities in meeting state match requirements.
- 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.
- Address concerns regarding the applicability of the recently enacted veterans property tax exemption and refrain from adopting any new or expanded property tax exemptions or caps.
- Provide greater certainty to municipalities regarding the personal property taxation of commercial solar arrays.

EDUCATION

- Increase funding for Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants for all towns to assist towns in addressing rising education costs.
- Increase special education funding and explore opportunities to reduce out-of-district placements and regionalize certain services to assist municipalities in addressing rising costs.
- Provide towns with greater flexibility and certainty under the Minimum Budget Requirement to help towns control education spending.
- Address issues with respect to regional school districts related to the Average Daily Membership and the municipal spending cap.

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

- Provide municipalities with greater input on the CT Siting Council to ensure that issues such as the impact of proposed facilities on environmentally sensitive lands is fully considered and that certain towns do not bear a disproportionate burden for hosting facilities.
- Eliminate the benefit charge from electric bills and support other changes to reduce costs for customers.



ENVIRONMENT

- Develop and implement statewide, enforceable policies to address municipal solid waste management concerns.
- Enhance efforts to assist municipalities in strengthening infrastructure to address increased flooding, more frequent storm events, and other climate resiliency issues.
- Increase funding available to assist municipalities in testing and remediating soil and wells contaminated with PFAS and other contaminants.

HOUSING

- Assist municipalities in supporting affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and mixed-use development, including addressing issues related to water and wastewater capacity, without imposing state mandates or penalizing municipalities by making them ineligible for certain discretionary grants.
- Establish an interagency working group to assist municipalities in expanding wastewater capacity to support housing initiatives.

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 ambulance services by increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate and addressing other cost issues.
- 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



- Strengthen laws to combat crime and support law enforcement in protecting our communities, including providing municipalities and law enforcement with stronger tools to combat street takeovers, the illegal use of ATVs and dirt bikes, and speeding and reckless driving.
- Support and control costs associated with the state's 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 1) addressing impediments to consolidation/regionalization, and 2) authorizing the creation of regional fair rent commissions rather than requiring towns to establish and staff separate commissions.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

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



2025 Legislative Platform

BUDGET & FINANCE ISSUES

- 1) Assist municipalities in leveraging state and federal infrastructure funding by 1) establishing a competitive grant program to assist municipalities in meeting federal match requirements; and 2) providing greater flexibility to municipalities in meeting state match requirements.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Refrain from adopting any new or expanded property tax exemptions or caps which shift a greater tax burden onto homeowners and businesses and address concerns regarding the applicability of the recently enacted veterans property tax exemption.
- 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) Ensure that the state provides adequate funding to reimburse municipalities for lost revenues under the car tax cap.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Provide towns with greater certainty regarding the personal property taxation of commercial solar arrays.

EDUCATION

- 1) Increase funding for Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants for all



- towns to assist towns in addressing rising education costs.
- 2) Assist towns in managing special education costs by a) increasing special education funding; b) authorizing Regional Education Service Centers to provide increased special education services to school districts; c) reimbursing school districts for transportation costs for special education; d) shifting the burden of proof in special education hearings from the school district to the claimant, consistent with federal standards; and e) requiring the state to pay 100% of the costs of special education for severe-needs students.
 - 3) Provide adequate funding to assist school districts in upgrading HVAC systems to improve air quality.
 - 4) Address issues with respect to regional school districts related to the Average Daily Membership and the municipal spending cap.
 - 5) Provide towns with greater flexibility and certainty under the Minimum Budget Requirement to help them reduce education spending.
 - 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.

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY

- 1) Ensure that municipalities have greater input on the CT Siting Council to ensure that issues such as the impact of proposed facilities on environmentally sensitive lands is fully considered and that certain towns do not bear a disproportionate burden for hosting facilities.
- 2) Reduce customers' electric costs by 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) Dedicate a portion of the state's brownfield remediation grants to assist small towns in cleaning



- up properties and supporting economic development initiatives.
- 2) Continue to fund the Small Town Economic Assistance Program to assist towns in funding vital economic and community development initiatives.
 - 4) Allow municipalities to apply for and administer brownfield clean up grants without requiring property ownership or collateral from a developer.
 - 5) Increase funding for the state's Clean Water program to assist municipalities in addressing wastewater issues and meeting federal EPA requirements.

ENVIRONMENT

- 1) Develop and implement statewide, enforceable policies to address municipal solid waste management concerns, including a) expanding efforts to promote organics collection and recycling; b) increase the capacity of in-state waste disposal options; c) developing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs for other products; d) supporting glass only recycling programs and facilitating the use of recycled glass in more products; and e) enhancing public education and outreach efforts to promote recycling.
- 2) Enhance efforts to assist municipalities in strengthening infrastructure to address increased flooding, more frequent storm events, and other climate resiliency issues.
- 3) Provide funding and technical assistance to towns to assist in complying with the MS4 Stormwater General Permit.
- 6) Strengthen the state's Invasive Species program to combat invasive species in lakes and other water resources, including expediting permitting.
- 7) Increase funding for DEEP's Linear Trail Network to maintain trails and support active recreation including cycling and other non-motorized activities.
- 8) Expand funding and support for farmland protection and farming operations.

HOUSING

- 1) Assist municipalities in supporting affordable housing, transit-oriented development, and mixed-used development, including addressing issues related to water and wastewater capacity, without imposing state mandates or penalizing municipalities by making them ineligible for discretionary grants.



- 2) Ensure that small towns that do not have transit stations are eligible for funding to address affordable housing needs.
 - 3) Establish an interagency working group to assist municipalities in expanding wastewater capacity to support housing initiatives.
 - 4) Continue to provide grants and technical assistance to support municipalities in updating municipal affordable housing plans.
 - 5) Incentivize efforts to repurpose vacant or underutilized commercial properties for housing and other developments.
 - 6) Promote homeownership opportunities through incentives and down payment assistance programs.
 - 7) 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.
- mandates that drive up the cost of local government.
- 2) 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.
 - 3) Reduce costs and administrative burdens associated with early voting requirements.
 - 4) Allow towns to post legal notices on municipal websites rather than newspapers, consistent with state agencies and courts.
 - 5) Eliminate the requirement that municipalities store evicted tenants' possessions.
 - 6) 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.
 - 7) Address burdens associated with the proliferation of Freedom of Information requests generated by for-profit organizations.
 - 8) Protect the ability of towns to maintain adequate budget reserves by providing that a budget reserve of 15% or less is not available to pay the costs of any item subject to municipal binding arbitration.

MANDATE RELIEF

- 1) Refrain from adopting any new or expanded unfunded



PUBLIC HEALTH

- 1) Address concerns regarding the delivery of ambulance services by increasing the Medicaid reimbursement rate and other cost issues.
- 2) Continue to enhance efforts to address the state's opioid crisis, including developing effective local and regional strategies for utilizing opioid settlement funds.
- 3) Increase funding available to assist municipalities in testing and remediating soil and wells contaminated with PFAS, road salt, uranium, and other contaminants.
- 4) Addressing the growing needs of CT's youth by supporting the work of the Youth Service Bureaus.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- 1) Strengthen laws to combat crime and support law enforcement in protecting our communities, including providing municipalities and law enforcement with stronger tools to combat street takeovers, the illegal use of ATV and dirt bikes, and speeding and reckless driving.
- 2) Assist fire departments in transitioning from volunteer to paid fire departments and emergency management

services (EMS) and provide incentives for regionalizing fire and EMS.

- 3) Support and control costs associated with the state's Resident Trooper program which provides essential public safety services in many small towns.
- 4) Coordinate efforts among the state, towns, and utilities to remove dead and decaying trees along roads and other public areas.

REGIONAL/SHARED SERVICES

- 1) Continue to adequately fund the regional Councils of Government and utilize the Regional Performance Incentive Program to facilitate shared service approaches.
- 2) Authorize the creation of regional Fair Rent Commissions rather than requiring each municipality > 25,000 in population to fund and staff local Fair Rent Commissions.
- 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 projects beyond the planning phase to include design, right-of-way, and construction.

TRANSPORTATION

- 1) Address regional transportation priorities to ease congestion on highways and enhance bus and rail service.
- 2) Reinstate funding to support rail service and increase ridership, including the Shore Line East Commuter Rail Service.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- 1) Develop and expand certification programs to prepare individuals for careers in municipal government, including assessors, building officials, finance directors, sanitarians, environmental health inspectors (food inspectors), zoning officials, water and wastewater operators, and other technical municipal positions.
- 2) Assist municipalities and regional councils of government in sharing certain positions, such as building officials and assessors.
- 3) Review and improve the reciprocity process for licensure and certifications obtained in other states.

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