

A Balanced Budget



This year, Connecticut faced a budget gap. To balance the budget, the legislature had to make some tough choices. We did reduce some government programs, but we also found ways to consolidate government, create greater efficiencies, and institute more fiscal reforms. The best news is that we reduced spending by \$1.5 billion and did not raise taxes.

A Touch of Class in Norwalk

I rely on my constituents—the individuals and businesses of Norwalk and Darien—to keep me abreast of issues affecting their neighborhoods. One such issue was the uninviting appearance of parts of Route 7 around Norwalk. With help from the state Department of Transportation we tackled the problem—removed the trash and repaired or replaced hundreds of feet of fencing. Thank you everyone for your efforts.



SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

BOB DUFF

Standing Up For YOU!

Representing Norwalk & Darien



Legislative Office Building, Room 3300, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: **860-240-0414** or **1-800-842-1420** Home: **203-840-1333**
Web: www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov Email: Bob.Duff@cga.ct.gov

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Making Travel Easier for Everyone



Our transportation infrastructure had been in a downward spiral for decades. On the whole, each year we'd spend an entire week of our lives stuck in traffic. How much has that cost you? Soon after taking office I began the fight to bring our railways, highways and local roads up to 21st century standards. We now have an improved I-95 between Exits 14 and 15 and a major upgrade to Metro-North's equipment. There's more coming and it benefits everyone—drivers, transit riders, rail commuters, even those who choose to walk or ride a bike. My aim is to get you to where you want to go, quickly, comfortably and safely.

Bob Duff

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New Jobs From a New Innovation Economy

Connecticut has had a long and proud history of innovation and craftsmanship going all the way back to the days of the Industrial Revolution. Today, there's a new Innovation Revolution and it's happening all around us. Our grandparents led the previous revolution and our children will lead the next, but only if we take decisive action now. So this year I championed a law aimed at putting Connecticut back in a leadership role. Here's what we can do:

- ▶ Expand on our strengths—a highly educated and productive workforce, top-tier universities and forward-thinking businesses—to encourage future job growth at startups and expansion-ready companies
- ▶ Attract entrepreneurs keen on creating new startups and growing successful startups into larger firms
- ▶ Establish 'Innovation Places'—local networks of innovators and entrepreneurs—where new businesses can grow faster through collaboration
- ▶ Connect colleges and universities with the private sector to convert research into new business initiatives
- ▶ Attract more private funding to support growing companies



Investing in Local Small Businesses



Small businesses generate 67% of all new jobs. They're the innovators, risk-takers and lifeblood of local communities. And because of strict federal regulations, banks find it difficult to loan money to even the most

deserving small business. That's why I helped lead the expansion of InvestCT, which encourages insurance companies to loan money in exchange for tax credits. It's already helped nearly 100 small businesses create and retain over 2,600 jobs. It's good for taxpayers too, returning \$2.21 for every dollar of tax credit.

A Leg Up for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses

We all owe a debt of gratitude to our military veterans who keep us safe. As policymakers, the legislature can support them as they return to civilian life. Under a new law I championed this year, veterans will now receive

additional preferences, making it easier for them to start and grow businesses. This new policy is a



continuation of my multi-year focus on improving the lives of our veterans and supporting them in every way possible.

"The Chamber is grateful to Senate leadership for its support of this initiative, which is vital to our more than 40,000 veteran-owned businesses"

Andrew S. DiSilvestro Jr., Executive VP
CT Veterans Chamber of Commerce

Improving Our Quality of Life

Many aspects to consider here including education, our environment, affordable housing, ease of mobility and social interaction. Here's the funding I brought home to the people of Norwalk and Darien:



\$23.7 million from the state budget to **Norwalk and Darien** including

\$12.3 million in state funding for **Norwalk and Darien public schools**

In addition, these grants were awarded:

\$2.5 million for construction at **Side by Side Charter School**

\$2.27 million for **Norwalk schools** repairs and construction

\$2 million grant for the **Maritime Aquarium**

\$1.7 million for the Open Door Shelter's **SoNo Life Center**

\$850,000 for a home ownership program by the **South Norwalk train station**

\$625,000 grant for the **Mill Hill Historic Park**

\$500,000 grant for the **Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum**

\$137,500 grant for **open space in Darien**

Aid to Stricken Firefighters

Firefighters have always known the dangers of rushing into a burning building. What they didn't know, what no one knew for decades, were the long-term dangers of the toxins in the building materials. Firefighters are more likely to get certain cancers than the general population, and studies show it's all job related. So I worked with them to establish a Firefighters Cancer Relief Program. Connecticut is the last state in New England and nearly the last in the country to provide relief for cancer-stricken firefighters, so it's about time.

