

State Senator  
**Martin Looney's**  
**Clip & Save**

Please contact my office if you have questions, issues or concerns regarding a state agency or program. Call me at:

**1-800-842-1420**

Visit my website to reach me via e-mail:

**www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov**

**Other Helpful phone number:**

- INFOLINE (community services)..... 211
- Dept. of Motor Vehicles..... 1-800-842-8222
- Renter's Rebate Hotline.....860-418-6377
- Consumer Protection
- Fraud Hotline..... 1-800-842-2649
- Health Care Advocate ..... 1-866-466-4446
- "Do Not Call" list ..... 1-888-382-1222
- Careline (to report child abuse or neglect) ..... 1-800-842-2288



Please share or recycle when done with this mailer.



**Safer Streets**

In an effort to make our roads safer I led passage of a Vulnerable User law to hold negligent drivers more accountable when they cause injury to pedestrians or cyclists. New Haven has the highest percentage of residents in New England who walk or bike to work. In recent years, greater New Haven has been the scene of several tragedies involving pedestrians, cyclists and officers attached to roadwork crews.

*State Senate Majority Leader*

# Martin M. Looney

Representing New Haven, Hamden & North Haven



Touring EleMar Marble & Granite with owner Barbara Harris in New Haven. EleMar used the Small Business Express program to grow its product line.



Legislative Office Building, Room 3300, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Call me @ **860-240-0375** or **1-800-842-1420**

**www.SenatorLooney.cga.ct.gov**

Follow me on YouTube Flickr RSS

PRSR STD  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 HARTFORD CT  
 PERMIT NO. 3937



**Preserving the Character of Our Neighborhoods**

After hearing from constituents regarding plans for overly aggressive tree trimming by utilities in our communities, I co-sponsored a bill this legislative session that establishes new guidelines for trimming near power lines. This new law will ensure that the public receives notice and can provide input from property owners before trees are trimmed. It also streamlines the process for objecting to proposed trimmings. I believe

the measure strikes the proper balance, ensuring safety during severe weather events without sacrificing our state's natural beauty.

**Fighting Unfair Insurance Rate Hikes**

When insurance companies were unfairly forcing homeowners to purchase expensive supplemental insurance or denying traditional insurance coverage unless their homes were equipped with permanent plywood storm shutters, I took action. Together with Representative Robert Megna, I helped pass a law that expressly prohibits insurance companies from denying coverage to shoreline homeowners who do not install 'permanent' storm shutters.



**Raising the Minimum Wage**

This year Connecticut led the nation by voting to increase the minimum wage to \$10.10 over the next three years. As a result, working families across Connecticut will see a genuine change in their day-to-day lives. Faced with the costs of housing, food, utilities, car maintenance and gasoline, our current minimum wage isn't sufficient for many people to make ends meet even when they are working full-time.



# Martin M. Looney

## Committed to Economic Recovery

Since the start of the global economic recession I've made it an essential priority as your State Senator to help small and mid-size businesses create and retain jobs and put unemployed people back to work. As a result of bipartisan legislation, we launched the STEP-Up and Small Business Express programs which have assisted almost 2,000 of Connecticut's small businesses to expand and to develop or preserve more than 17,000 jobs. These initiatives offer job training support for veterans and the unemployed and low-interest loans and grants for small businesses.

Over the last four years we have created more than 65,000 jobs and our unemployment rate recently fell below 7 percent for the first time since 2009. However, we must build upon this record of progress.

Looking forward, Connecticut's new partnership with United Technologies Corporation will solidify our position as a world leader in aerospace manufacturing. Most importantly, this agreement has a direct impact on the 75,000 jobs at the thousands of aerospace supply chain companies throughout the state, ensuring they are maintaining and creating good-paying jobs with good benefits for men and women in nearly every city and town in Connecticut.



I recently visited Reclamation Lumber where owner Robert Fecke told Senator Gary Holder-Winfield and me how the STEP-Up program helped his Fair Haven business expand its workforce.

### Jobs for Veterans

I supported a bill that will remove barriers to entry into the civilian workplace for those who learned technical and trade skills while in military service. This legislation will require state licensing authorities to accept military training and experience, where appropriate, as a substitute for other requirements, and will allow veterans to gain streamlined occupational certifications and licenses.



Veterans talk to employers at a Heroes for Hire job fair.

### Resources to Grow Jobs

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org)
- ▶ **Small Business Express** to get funding for your small business: [tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress](http://tinyurl.com/SmallBizXpress), or contact Michelle Peters at 860-270-8052 or [Michelle.Peters@ct.gov](mailto:Michelle.Peters@ct.gov)
- ▶ **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: [www.stepct.com](http://www.stepct.com)
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: [www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP)
- ▶ **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: [www.ctjobandcareer.org](http://www.ctjobandcareer.org)
- ▶ Learn more about **Job Growth in Connecticut**: [www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs)



With AARP workers at the Bella Vista Senior Living Community in New Haven during one of my past senior fairs.

### A Rebate for Senior Renters

Being able to stay in their own home is a major concern for many senior citizens; however, housing stability presents a challenge for those living on a fixed income. In order to help offset a portion of their rent and utility expenses, we've re-opened the Elderly Renters' Rebate Program. Eligible persons may apply between April 1 and October 1. Questions about the program and payments should be directed to the **Renters' Rebate Hotline** at 860-418-6377.

### Boosting Municipal Aid

While other states are reducing grants to cities and towns and burdening property taxpayers, Connecticut kept its promise to municipalities. Over the last two years we've increased aid to cities and towns by \$125 million and funding for education by \$50 million. This year, I also led passage of legislation that increases Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) reimbursements to municipalities by \$20 million.

### A Smart Start for Our Kids



With pre-K students at the Helen Street School in Hamden.

Recognizing there is no better way to set students on the path to lifelong learning success than a high quality pre-kindergarten experience, we created the Connecticut Smart Start program to provide 50,000 more children access to vital early education in our public schools. Combined with additional slots for private providers, our comprehensive pre-K package will reduce the achievement gap and ensure that all children are ready to learn when they arrive at kindergarten. Every dollar invested in pre-K saves \$7 in avoided special and remedial education and criminal justice costs.