

Protecting the Environment & Silver Sands State Park



Numerous Milford residents have expressed concerns about the proposed buildout of Silver Sands State Park. Earlier this year, I joined many of these residents at two public hearings to advocate for the neighborhood and our whole community. I am also pursuing an environmental impact evaluation of the buildout to ensure this project will not damage the natural environment that attracts hundreds of families to Silver Sands every year.

State Investment in Orange's Fred Wolfe Park

I secured funding to help the Town of Orange with revitalizing Fred Wolfe Park. This grant will help ensure that the park continues to be a recreational and community focal point for the town and our region. I look forward to seeing this project progress.

All-Day Kindergarten in West Haven

All-day kindergarten classes are now in place at all six West Haven public elementary schools, thanks to an additional \$500,000 in state Alliance District funding and a \$1 million grant from the State Bond Commission that I helped to secure. This additional instructional time will give students more opportunities to connect with the curriculum, and support staff more time to address any learning difficulties students may have. These additional early intervention efforts will result in students needing fewer services later in their academic careers.



Your State Senator

Gayle Slossberg

Representing Milford, Orange, West Haven & Woodbridge



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Protecting Your Privacy



News stories about data breaches have become too common. That is why my colleagues and I unanimously passed one of the strongest cybersecurity laws in the nation. The law requires health insurance companies to ensure that customers' most private data is kept secure by developing comprehensive security programs to

safeguard the personal information of their enrollees and insureds. For tips and resources on protecting your identity, use the links provided by the state Department of Consumer Protection at www.ct.gov/dcp under "Awareness & Prevention."

Transparency & Fairness for Electricity Pricing

Growing numbers of electric consumers reported being coaxed, through the lure of low rates, into signing variable-rate contracts. Many testified that, soon after the contracts were signed, and without warning, their rates increased significantly and they were charged costly fees to terminate their contracts. Electric customers deserve stable, predictable rates. That is why we passed legislation to **ban variable-rate residential electric contracts beginning October 1, 2015**. Also, please be aware that state law requires that every residential electric customer's monthly bill must display his or her rate for the coming month. To file a consumer complaint, contact PURA: **1-800-382-4586** or www.ct.gov/pura.



Honoring Our Veterans

Our nation's veterans have served and sacrificed and I am committed not only to improving the critical services they receive, but to ensuring they are properly recognized. That's why I organized and hosted a ceremony, joined by state Department of Veterans' Affairs Commissioner Sean Connolly, to present more than 100 area veterans with Connecticut's Wartime Service Medal. Any person who served in the armed forces during a time of war and was a Connecticut resident at the time, or currently lives in Connecticut, is eligible for the award. Any veteran who believes they may be eligible for the medal may contact my office at **860-240-0482**.



Property Tax Cuts to Save Families & Businesses Hundreds of Millions of Dollars

Whether talking with families, seniors, small-business owners or others in our community, the most frequent concern expressed to me is about property taxes. Historically, state law has limited the ways in which cities and towns can generate revenue almost entirely to property taxes. That's why I am helping lead the charge to limit these crippling taxes.

Cutting Car Taxes

In 2016, **car taxes throughout the state will be capped** at 32 mills, and in 2017 and every year thereafter, the cap will be lowered to 29.36 mills. About one-third of our towns currently have a mill rate of 32 or above, and more than half have a mill rate above 29.36. Statewide, it is estimated that families and businesses will benefit from a **tax cut of more than \$78 million in 2016 and \$107 million in 2017.**



Increasing Municipal Aid

While the **car tax cap will cut local taxes by hundreds of millions of dollars** throughout the state over the next several years, more needs to be done at the local level to get property taxes under control. Democrats in the General Assembly also created a **new source of revenue for municipalities.** Beginning in 2016, a portion of the Connecticut sales tax revenue, 0.5 percent of the tax, will be **designated to every municipality in the state to help alleviate pressure on the property tax.**

Capping Municipal Spending

To ensure that additional state aid to towns and cities is utilized for property tax relief, rather than increasing spending, **we've passed a cap on municipal spending.**



Supporting Family Caregivers



Nearly 500,000 Connecticut residents act as caregivers, and many of them feel unprepared to provide the care needed to keep their loved ones healthy. The CARE Act will help to ensure caregivers are given follow-up instructions when a patient is discharged from the hospital. It will also reduce costly hospital readmissions.

The CARE Act requires hospitals to:

- Provide patients with the opportunity to designate a caregiver during their admission;
- Make reasonable attempts to notify the designated caregiver if the patient is to be discharged; and
- Provide the caregiver with instructions on how to perform medication management, wound care, injections or other medical tasks when the patient returns home.

Lower Taxes for Veterans

Senate Democrats led passage of a tax cut for military veterans. Veterans will no longer pay Connecticut income tax on their military retirement pay. State law used to provide for a 50 percent exemption to retired members of the Armed Forces; now there is a 100 percent exemption. Not only is this the right thing to do for those who fought to defend our freedoms, it also helps keep veterans in our state to build our skilled workforce. Many of today's growing businesses are looking to hire highly skilled workers with strong leadership abilities, qualities that most veterans possess.



Helping Children with Dyslexia

Thousands of Connecticut children struggle with dyslexia, a learning disability that impacts reading. Our state statutes did not provide guidance to school systems about how to detect and assist students with dyslexia. Families with children facing this learning challenge had nowhere to turn.

As Senate chair of the Education Committee, I drafted new legislation that now requires the state Department of Education to help parents and boards of education detect and intervene for students with dyslexia.



Student Loan Borrowers

Students across the country are accruing crippling amounts of student loan debt. Often, students sign contracts without fully understanding language relating to interest, principal, or the difference between subsidized and unsubsidized loans. We passed legislation to establish student loan education courses at institutions of higher education. The Department of Banking is required to oversee the implementation of the courses and provide guidance to student loan borrowers. These courses will help students better navigate the funding sources available and ensure they are equipped to become responsible borrowers.

Easing the Burden of Testing on High School Students



Until this school year, 11th-graders were overburdened with duplicative tests. In addition to taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) test, many high school juniors also took the SAT, ACT and Advanced Placement Exams. As Senate Education Committee chair, I

drafted and then led bipartisan passage of legislation to eliminate the requirement that 11th-grade students take the SBAC test and require instead that they take a nationally recognized test such as the SAT at no cost to the students and their families.

This not only reduces over-testing, it also provides a free college readiness exam for Connecticut's high school students, making college more accessible to all students.