



Workforce Development and Education

- Achieve efficiencies in education. Address mandate relief and consolidation in areas such as administration, minimum budget requirements and binding arbitration.
- Adopt a new Education Cost Sharing formula that cost effectively addresses the needs of all students while maintaining funding for small towns.
- Support course offerings and programs by Northwestern Connecticut Community College that are crucial to our region's workforce.
- Support the growth and expansion of Oliver Wolcott Technical High School which is vital to area businesses and serves the largest geographic region of any technical school.

Transportation

- Explore public/private partnerships to improve transit options throughout Northwest Connecticut.

Economic Hub

- Recognize Torrington's designation as a micropolitan area. The City is the economic and social center of Litchfield County with a population less than 50,000 while serving 180,000.



Arts & Culture

- Support cost effective culture and tourism initiatives in Northwest Connecticut that generate a return on investment.
- Reform the funding distribution formula for local economic drivers such as the Warner Theatre.
- Maintain the CT Office of the Arts and encourage a collaboration with the Northwest Connecticut Arts Council.
- Support plans by Five Points Gallery to develop a visual arts education complex at the former UConn campus.

Energy and Communications

- Continue capital and maintenance improvements to increase energy supply, capacity and transmission.
- Support Northwest CT's companies that create fuel cell, wind, solar, bioheat and other alternative energy innovations.
- Support efforts to increase the supply of natural gas in Connecticut.
- Support a new fiber-optic network for Northwest Connecticut which is critical to the region's economic development, education and safety.



Healthcare

- Further support community-based mental health services that address the growing demand for treatment, and in particular, measures that effectively counter the opioid crisis.
- Phase out the hospital provider tax and provide adequate funding through Medicaid to ensure financial viability of our hospitals, which are major employers and economic drivers.
- Adopt policies to assist recruitment and retention of skilled healthcare workers at all levels including primary care providers, CNA's and nurses to cover the current and projected shortage.

Business Growth

- Oppose mandates and regulations that increase both the cost of living and the cost of doing business.
- Support policies that attract and retain businesses.
- Create policies that will result in a pro-business environment to encourage growth.
- Adopt common sense unemployment compensation reforms that will restore trust fund solvency.



Fiscal Principals

Government as Usual Will Not Solve Connecticut's Fiscal Crisis

- Fiscal predictability and reducing the increases in both the cost of living and doing business in CT are essential to reviving our economy.
- Government must prioritize services and deliver them more efficiently. Our spending policies must distinguish between wants and needs.
- The process for setting public sector employee contracts, including pensions and benefits, must be reformed with sustainability as the goal.
- Cost effective public-private partnerships or privatization should be encouraged for the provision for state and local services.

2019 Legislative Agenda



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Balance & Stability



Our Mission: To promote economic growth while enhancing the quality of life in Northwest Connecticut.