

## ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

- Support the continuing funding for arts, culture and entertainment to institutions such as The Warner Theatre, Five Points Center for the Arts, Five Points Gallery, KidsPlay Children's Museum, Nutmeg Conservatory, The New England Accordion & Museum Company, American Mural Project and American Museum of Tort Law.
- Recognize and assist Torrington's Cultural District as a regional asset that contributes to the economic viability and quality of life for all businesses and residents.
- Fund initiatives that focus on the northwest corner as an Arts, Culture, Tourism and Entertainment destination.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

- Implement legislation to secure and improve Broadband and Fiber-Optic networks throughout the northwest region.
- Develop resources so that all students have secure internet connections and the ability to learn and study remotely.
- Ensure that businesses and residents have the choice to acquire the best providers for equipment at a competitive price.
- Provide access to Affordable Housing to attract and retain skilled labor, college graduates and young professionals to northwest Connecticut.
- Acknowledge and address the crisis regarding public transportation as a key stumbling block in the recruitment and retention of a strong workforce.
- Work to find an environmentally friendly and cost effective way to address Connecticut's solid waste issues.
- Support environmental conservation efforts to attract new business, as well as enhance the region as a destination of world class natural beauty.

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## 2023 Legislative Agenda

## BI-PARTISANSHIP COLLABORATION INNOVATION

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

## **COVID RELIEF**

- Provide funding for collaborations to ensure proper notifications regarding COVID relief resources.
- Engage the business community in planning, managing and distributing state and federal relief funds to stabilize and strengthen businesses.
- Help Social Service organizations recover from the profound impact of the burdens COVID has placed on them.

## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION**

- Invest in partnerships that can provide alternative and creative ways to utilize transportation to accommodate employers and employees.
- Develop educational opportunities in the vocational trades to provide more options for students to make sound career choices suited to their skill sets, culture and interests.
- Support regional institutions of higher learning, such as Northwestern Connecticut Community College, to prepare students for high tech careers including cyber-security.
- Provide funding for early and pre-school education to help families acquire employment opportunities that enhance their economic circumstances.
- Focus on the opportunities for vo-ag, vo-tech and public schools to share resources and funding.
- Assist northwest Connecticut's manufacturing sector in the retention and recruitment of employees.
- Work with the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board in support of sector partnerships, the industry-focused approach to building a skilled workforce.

## **BUSINESS GROWTH**

- Eliminate the Indexed Minimum Wage Proposal that will increase wages after reaching \$15.00 per hour.
- Support legislation to hold employers harmless for Unemployment Compensation Rates due to an employee's Family & Medical Leave Status.
- Repeal the \$6.35 state sales tax on employment training and safety apparel, including personal protective equipment.
- Restore the pass-through Entity Tax credit to its original 93%.
- Reinstate the R&D Tax Credit to attract entrepreneurs, foster start-up businesses and promote private sector investment.
- Find ways to reduce the tax burden on businesses by opposing mandates and regulations that increase the cost of doing business in Connecticut.
- Either Repeal the additional 1% Sales Tax that the Restaurant Industry is mandated to collect OR allow the 1% additional Sales Tax to be sent to the municipality that the restaurant is located in so that it is directly helping reduce the property tax burden.

## **ENHANCED HEALTHCARE FACILITIES & SERVICES**

- Provide support for our regional hospitals and urgent care facilities and insist that our healthcare workers are equipped with the necessary equipment to treat all patients in the region.
- Recognize and address the need to improve mental health services throughout all business sectors.
- Expand the Rural Health Designation throughout the northwest corner.
- Acknowledge the presence and accomplishments of first responders, healthcare workers and essential staff including educators and nonprofit providers of social services.