

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## Unemployment Insurance

For an in-depth explanation of unemployment insurance and benefits call the TeleBenefits number in Stamford. 203-348-2696

## Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)



Individuals who are enrolled in both Medicare and ConnPACE are no longer able to access ConnPACE benefits. Instead, those eligible for Medicare should apply to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) in order to receive prescription drug assistance. There is no asset test for this program, and the income limits are the same as those for ConnPACE.

MSP offers eligible seniors savings of at least \$1,000 per year in Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments to \$6.30 or less. For information call Infoline at 211, or CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422 or visit [www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms](http://www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms).

## Save on Your Electric Bill

**Choose Your Electric Supplier**—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by 10 percent.

1-877-947-3873 or [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com)

**Home Energy Solutions**—This program helps customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-877-947-3873

**Helping With Payments**—Programs are available to help customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balances. 1-800-286-2828



## A Stronger "Do Not Call" List

Current law allows the state to impose fines for violations of the "No Sales Solicitation Calls" statute under the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, and legislation passed last year would allow the state to impose an additional \$11,000 fine. To register a telephone number, consumers may call the Federal Trade Commission at 1-888-382-1222 or the state Department of Consumer Protection at 1-800-842-2649.

## Resource for Foreclosure Relief

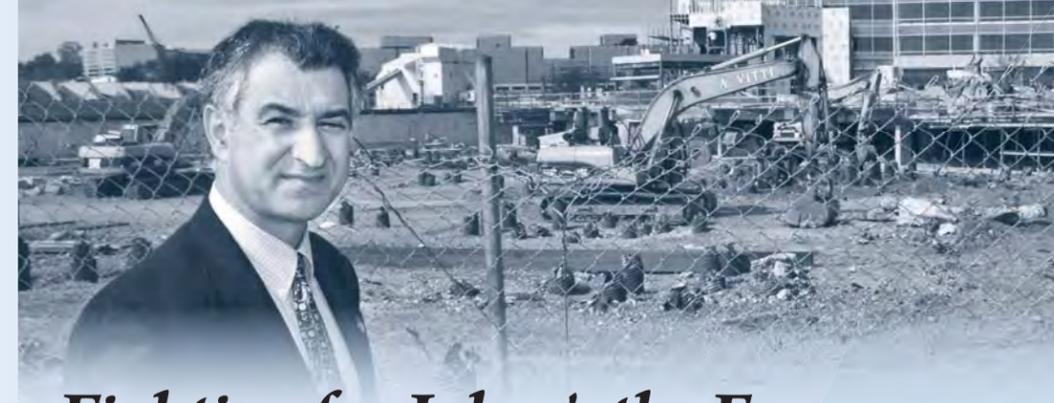
If you're having trouble paying your mortgage, or are facing delinquency or foreclosure, contact one of Connecticut's Housing Counseling Agencies. Each agency is prepared to give advice, screen your eligibility for potential assistance programs and offer other resources to help you keep your home. Call Mutual Housing Association of Southwestern Connecticut at 203-359-6940.

## The Military Family Relief Fund

This fund provides grants in times of financial hardship for the immediate families of active-duty military personnel and of National Guard and Reserve members who have been mobilized for service in the Global War on Terror. 1-860-524-4968

## Helping Veterans Prove Their Service

We passed a law allowing the state DMV to include a veteran's status on his or her state driver's license or identity card. Both of these IDs are routinely carried everywhere and widely recognized as official, thereby helping veterans secure the cost-saving benefits they are rightly entitled to. We also extended free, lifetime passes to state parks, forests and other recreational facilities to any Connecticut resident who is a disabled wartime veteran.



## Fighting for Jobs & the Economy

State Senator

# Carlo Leone

Legislative Office Building, Room 3602

Hartford, CT 06106-1591

[www.SenatorLeone.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorLeone.cga.ct.gov)

1-800-842-1420

Representing

Stamford

& Darien

Dear Neighbor:

We are living at a defining moment in history. The time will come when we look back on the choices made during this period of economic hardship and judge what kind of foundation we laid for our future.

We need a bipartisan philosophy in order to prevent the kind of gridlock now on display in Washington, D.C. I realize the importance of the decisions we make today, and that they will greatly impact our lives for decades to come.

This year I worked with leaders in all branches of government, regardless of party affiliation, to successfully pass legislation with bipartisan support. These bills represent the building blocks of systemic change. It is my pleasure to share their details with you.

Yet important challenges remain, and we have much more to do. With your support and input, I aim to continue the work and progress that we have already made together.

Sincerely,

Carlo Leone

State Senator

## Stay Informed in a "Green" Way



Sign-up to receive my e-mail newsletter. It's a paperless way for me to communicate with my constituents about timely issues that impact our communities and our state. To sign up, visit: [www.SenatorLeone.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorLeone.cga.ct.gov)



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WINTER 2011

# STATE SENATOR Carlo Leone

Serving Stamford & Darien



## LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

### Keeping Our Water Clean

Clean water is good for the environment, healthy for drinking, good for businesses on Long Island Sound and contributes to Connecticut's high standard of living, which attracts businesses and homeowners. This year, we made additional investments in various Clean Water Fund projects. The fund helps cities and towns plan, design and construct wastewater collection and treatment plants that result in better public health, cleaner rivers and a healthier Long Island Sound.

### Cracking Down on Online Bullying

Connecticut already has a strong anti-bullying law, but we reinforced it this year with two key provisions: we've added electronic "cyberbullying" to the list of prohibited activities, and we've expanded the number of mandatory school reporters and the responsibilities of school districts to include bullying incidents that occur off school grounds. Bullying has expanded into the electronic world of social media, and Connecticut is keeping pace in protecting its younger citizens.



### Expanding Options and Opportunity in Education



State funding for public education that is granted based on the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula has long been accused of being inequitable in how it grants support to cities and towns. We formed a task force to study the ECS formula and made recommendations on how to improve it. We also expanded the state's Open Choice program to provide increased grants to school districts that enroll students from other less well-performing districts.

### Access to Your Medical Test Results

When patients are active and well-informed participants in their health care, they receive better results. We passed legislation this year that will require health care providers, except in limited circumstances, to supply a patient upon request with their medical test results, along with other information about their diagnosis or treatment. The bill will also require clinical laboratories to share test results with all of a patient's medical providers, upon the patient's request, so that medical care can be better coordinated and the same tests need not be repeated needlessly.

## GROWING JOBS

Jobs are the number one issue facing Connecticut today. We took action in the legislature this year to put more people back to work and get our economy growing again. Unlike the partisan gridlock in Washington, both parties came together in Hartford to pass a Jobs Bill of common-sense improvements. We focused on small businesses, **cut the business entity tax in half** and **streamlined state regulations**. Other highlights of the bill include:



Cutting the ribbon to open the doors of AAA's new Stamford branch office at High Ridge Center.

- ▶ **Helping small businesses with hiring**—We established a monthly hiring tax credit that increases when businesses hire unemployed, disabled or veteran workers. We also made it easier for businesses to hire new workers for on-the-job training.
- ▶ **Investing in start-ups**—At a time when many banks aren't lending, we invested in new start-up companies by building business incubators and expanding the angel investor tax credit.
- ▶ **Building a workforce for the future**—We will recruit students for vo-tech, agri-science and tech education by promoting their benefits with middle school parents and local boards of education. We'll also establish manufacturing technology programs at three community colleges.
- ▶ **Investing in infrastructure**—Paved the way for economic development zones at Connecticut's general aviation airports, allocated funds for shovel-ready bridge projects, and passed major reforms to lower energy costs and increase energy efficiency.



### NBC Sports Moves to Town

As part of Governor Malloy's "First Five" initiative, NBC Sports and 450 new jobs will soon be coming to Stamford. The network's coverage of the National Hockey League, the Olympic Games and their executive operations will all soon be located here. With the existing presence in Stamford of A&E Television, YES Sports Network and the existing NBC studios at the Rich Forum Theater, our city is rapidly growing as a new hub of the entertainment industry.

## FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

### Aid For Stamford & Darien

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That's why I fought hard to protect funding for **Stamford** and **Darien**.

### Discussing Education Policy

In mid-October, I was pleased to organize a panel discussion on education policy with legislators of both parties at the headquarters of Domus, a local nonprofit education organization. We discussed topics including the state's Education Cost Sharing formula, college readiness, a potential lengthening of the school day and other concerns. The forum proved quite successful, and in January I hope to organize another one with the Stamford Parent Teacher Council.



### Seeking Jobs for Our Veterans



20 percent of our military veterans under age 25 are out of work, along with 11.5 percent of all veterans. Combining two separate federal programs may offer a solution. One initiative funds energy-efficiency work, the other supports soundproofing of buildings near airports. Both programs involve installing insulation and similar tasks, so I have proposed merging the two, and hiring veterans to do the work. I am working with state legislative colleagues, Connecticut's congressional delegation and the governor to make this a reality.



### Learning From Two Extreme Storms

Connecticut was hit hard with two extreme storms nine weeks apart. In both instances hundreds of thousands of households lost power, most for several days, and many for more than a week. The large number of lengthy outages across the state, primarily in CL&P coverage areas, has led to many questions about this utility's ability to prepare for and manage these drastic situations. CL&P is now under heavy scrutiny and action will be taken by the legislature to address their failure. In a series of post-storm hearings, we listened to suggestions from the public and local officials based on their experiences. We crafted their ideas into recommendations that have now been shared with the governor's Two Storm Panel.

