

# WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

## Easing Red Tape for Charity Events

Our local charitable organizations do wonderful things that help support our community. However, under state regulations, law-abiding charities and nonprofit groups—like our own Milford Hospital Auxiliary—were being prevented from conducting legitimate raffles to raise money for local needs. Working together, we were able to change the law to make it more reasonable for charities to raise the funds they need in order to do their good works, especially in these difficult economic times.



I was proud to join the kickoff of "Women with United Vision," a new group formed to assist our local United Way.

Dear Neighbor,

Our work at the State Capitol this year has been and continues to be about jobs, improving the economy and getting our fiscal house in order.

While it is difficult, as a state, to overcome the tsunami effect of the national and international recession, we must still rise to the occasion so that we can land on our feet.

That's why I am pleased that the budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2010 was eliminated through bipartisan action. Projections are the same for Fiscal Year 2011 provided that our modest recovery continues.

As the co-chairman of the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes, I am focused on streamlining state government and increasing efficiency. We have identified over 50 ways to improve state services and have already passed legislation that will save the state millions of dollars.

We still have tough decisions ahead of us. Only with the governor and legislature working together, which is what you expect, can we continue to make the necessary choices good for the long-term.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you. I urge you to stay in touch.

Sincerely,

  
Gayle Slossberg  
State Senator



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I was proud to stand with my friends and neighbors to protest the proposed closing of the Baybrook Post Office this year. Together, we prevented this West Haven landmark—an important part of our community—from being shut down for good.

## Support for Our Veterans—All of Them

All of our veterans—men and women alike—serve their country nobly and sacrifice for our freedoms. I've been very proud to lead the effort to address the needs of our homeless female veterans, a population that's been poorly served by our current system. On January 1, the Department of Veterans Affairs must report on the findings of a study of homeless female veterans, including their numbers and information on shelter options and other resources so that we can better address the needs of these brave women.

# State Senator Gayle Slossberg

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With 4th-grade students from St. Mary's School in Milford during their visit to the Capitol.



I was honored to receive an award from the Connecticut Veterans for my work in establishing the Korean War Veterans Memorial at the State Capitol. Joining me are Arthur & Barbara Streit and Donald & Nancy Nielsen of Orange.



Congratulations to the Orange Senior Leadership Class of 2010!

## NEW LEGISLATION

### Standing Up For Vocational-Technical Schools

For too long the 10,000 students enrolled in vo-tech schools have endured understaffing, shortages of classroom and shop supplies, inefficient transportation and virtually no budgetary oversight. The legislature passed a new law that will ensure that the system has adequate resources, while putting into place appropriate oversight and attention to the schools' needs by the state Board of Education. This will help schools like Platt Tech.



### The Great Outdoors—On a Budget

If you enjoy the great outdoors, you'll be happy to learn that the legislature reduced recent increases in hunting, fishing, camping and park entrance fees. An example of the savings for Connecticut residents: a pass during the weekend at Hammonasset State Park has been rolled back by about \$7. We also approved rebates next year for those who purchased certain licenses before the price cut was enacted.

### Renewed Efforts to Keep People in Their Homes

The national housing crisis that started in 2008 continues to impact Connecticut. Thankfully, the state's landmark foreclosure mediation program has helped to keep 3,300 homeowners in their homes. The success of the program convinced the General Assembly and Governor Rell that it must be extended until 2012.



## GROWING JOBS

### Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Some economists call our landmark bipartisan jobs bill the most important jobs initiative that the General Assembly has ever considered. Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans and lines of credit for small businesses to help fund expansions, additional hires or new equipment
- ▶ Sales-tax exemptions for machinery, supplies and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and training grants for education and careers in green technology, life sciences and health information technology
- ▶ Pre-seed financing and technical services to businesses developing innovative concepts
- ▶ Tax credits for angel investments in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green technology businesses



### One-Stop Shopping for Small Businesses

Many Connecticut residents work for small businesses. We need them to thrive in order to help Connecticut recover from this global recession. So this session the legislature passed a bill that requires the state Department of Economic and Community development to provide a single contact point for small businesses seeking financial and technical help, to coordinate all state small business revolving loan funds and to create an informational Web page with small business resources.

## FOR SENIORS

### Helping Seniors Survive the Recession

The effects of a recession on seniors can be especially profound. Fortunately, we were able to pass several laws which help reduce health care costs, keep seniors in their homes and protect them from scam artists. The General Assembly:

- ▶ Reduced the 15 percent co-pay on the Home Care Program for Elders to 6 percent. The reduction will save the average client in the program nearly \$100 per month on co-pays.
- ▶ Reopened the Alzheimer's Respite Care Program to provide respite services for caregivers.
- ▶ Protected the privacy of those who participate in senior center programming by exempting personal information from the Freedom of Information laws. This means that information including addresses and telephone numbers won't be available to the public.



### Resources and Helpful Links

Follow links to these special pages from [www.senatedems.ct.gov](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov):

- ▶ Resources for Jobseekers
- ▶ Protecting Homeowners, Preventing Foreclosures
- ▶ Veterans' Guide
- ▶ Health Care Programs in Connecticut
- ▶ A Guide to the State Budget