

# A NEW DIRECTION FOR CONNECTICUT

## What's in our budget?

### Spending Reductions

- **Significant structural changes that reduce the size of government.** Senate Republicans will keep advocating for accountability and innovation throughout government that result in savings.
- **Changes to state employee union benefits to make them more comparable to municipal and local union employee benefits.** State employees currently receive benefits that far exceed what workers such as nurses, teachers, municipal firefighters, police or other municipal public service workers get in our state. By making state employee benefits more comparable to existing municipal union labor agreements the state would have the proper resources to fully fund municipalities resulting in municipal construction projects, funding for our schools and support for our teachers. With a more sustainable state employee benefit system our state can finally begin to tackle our huge debts and create stability for taxpayers and state employees alike.

### Protection for Core Services

- Increases Meals on Wheels funding
- Protects mental health and substance abuse treatment funding
- Increases funding for day and employment services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Protects funding for school based health clinics, rape crisis, community health services, nutrition assistance, family resource centers
- Protects funding for domestic violence shelters, services for those with disabilities, employment opportunities for blind and deaf
- Restores funding for regional mental health boards and restores mental health services
- Protects funding for programs that help seniors such as the CT Home Care Program, the personal needs allowance and adds more funding to non ADA dial a ride
- Provides required funding to reopen programs under Care4Kids

### Protection for Education, Towns and Cities

- Increases education funding by \$170 million in the first two years and implements a new funding formula
- A plan to provide predictable municipal aid without adding new financial burdens onto towns and cities.

### Tax Relief

- Exempts Social Security from the income tax
- Phases in federal exemption of estate tax
- Maintains tax exempt status for hospitals to protect them from a new local hospital tax
- Exempts pension and annuity income from the income tax

### Support for Economic Growth

- Prioritizes transportation needs and stabilizes funding without new revenue such as tolls
- Enhances funding for state parks and tourism
- Streamlines government and provides for structural changes to create stability to attract businesses and encourage job growth

