



Common Sense

 COMMITMENT TO CONNECTICUT

Spend No More Than You Make

Borrow Only What You Can Afford To Pay Back

If It's Not Broken, Don't Fix It. But If It's Not Working, Get Rid Of It

The More Government Tries To Do, The Less It Does Well

Government Doesn't Create Jobs, People Do

We Should Have All The Government We Need,
But Only The Government We Need

Empower Local Governments To Make Local Decisions

SPEND NO MORE THAN YOU MAKE

- **Implement the Constitutional Spending Cap.**
- **Increase health care co-pays for legislators and legislative staff.**
- **Reduce salaries of legislators by 10% for 2 years.**
- **Reform state employee pensions by:**
 - Requiring state employees to contribute more toward their retirement;
 - Calculating retirement income based on a five year look-back, rather than a three year look-back;
 - Capping cost of living adjustments at lower levels;
 - Creating a defined contribution plan for new state employees;
 - Increasing the retirement age for state employees in Tiers II and IIA;
 - Eliminating longevity payment amounts and overtime from the pension calculation formula.
- **Reform state employee health care plans by:**
 - Increasing the level of state employee contribution into the Other Post Employment Benefits trust fund;
 - Increasing the age that state employees are eligible for retirement and early retirement;
 - Making only those state employees who directly go into retirement eligible to receive health care benefits;
 - Requiring the age of retirement and time of service to equal 80 years or more, and requiring state employees with less than 25 years of experience to pay premiums on a sliding scale based on years of service;
 - Increasing co-pays and premiums;
 - Requiring DAS to create a program to incentivize state employees to participate in a wellness program.
- **Freeze state employee salaries for 2 years, reduce commissioner and deputy commissioner salaries by 10% for 2 years, and eliminate longevity payments.**
- **Reduce the number of managers in state government.**
 - Use a comparison to private industry to determine the proper number of managers needed in each agency.
- **Require a vote by each chamber on all collective bargaining agreements, or stipulated agreements under 3-125a.**

BORROW ONLY WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD TO PAY BACK

- **Limit bonding to keep debt service below 10% of annual budget.**
- **Establish criteria to borrow only for specific purposes including school construction, transportation, economic development, and public safety.**
- **Place a moratorium on higher education borrowing, except for emergencies.**
- **Remove fast-tracking of certain higher education bonding projects.**
- **Repeal bond authorizations that are not allocated within five years of authorization.**

IF IT'S NOT BROKEN, DON'T FIX IT, BUT IF IT'S NOT WORKING, GET RID OF IT

- **Eliminate Waste Fraud and Abuse.**
 - Eliminate waste, fraud and abuse in state government and improve the processing of whistleblower complaints by transferring current staff located in the Attorney General's office into a Division of State Accountability and Investigations within the Office of the Auditors of Public Accounts.
- **Implement Generally Accepted Accounting Principles**
 - Require Comptroller, OPM and OFA to produce their reports regarding state finances in their current process and also using GAAP.
- **Require state-funded programs to sunset after two years, unless a review shows that they have met their stated purpose (covers those state programs solely funded by the state, not tied to federal restrictions, i.e. Medicaid, etc.).**
- **Close Riverview Hospital and relocate patients to private facilities.**

THE MORE GOVERNMENT TRIES TO DO, THE LESS IT DOES WELL

- **Consolidate all legislative commissions into a single commission with one executive director.**
- **Consolidate 43 agencies into 11:**
 - The Department of Revenue Services shall include the Division of Special Revenue;
 - Create a Department of Transportation and Infrastructure that shall include the Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Works;
 - Create a Department of Environmental Protection and Agriculture that shall include the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Agriculture and the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners;
 - Create a Department of Human Services that shall include the Department of Public Health, Psychiatric Security Review Board, the Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Developmental Disabilities, the Department of Children and Families, and the Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired;
 - The Department of Education shall include the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, the Commission for Educational Technology, the State Library Board, and the Department of Higher Education;
 - The Office of the State Treasurer shall include the Teachers' Retirement Board;
 - The Department of Administrative Services shall include the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, and the Workers' Compensation Commission;
 - The Department of Public Safety shall include the Commission on Medicolegal Investigations, the Office of the Victim Advocate, the Commission on Child Protection and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security;
 - Create a Department of Economic Development that shall include CT Innovations, CT Development Authority, CT Housing Finance Authority, the Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Department of Labor;
 - The Department of Consumer Protection shall include the Board of Accountancy;
 - Delay the establishment of the Department of Aging and the State Contracting Standards Board.
- **Implement the LEAN Process to streamline agency internal processes.**
- **Increase reliance on private providers in human service agencies and state parks maintenance.**
- **Reform the process to accelerate the sale of state assets.**
- **Create a quasi-public port authority to operate Bradley and Brainard Airports and state-owned and operated ferry services.**
- **Reduce duplicative administrative staff at Connecticut State University and Connecticut Community Colleges Systems in order to achieve efficiencies and cost savings.**

GOVERNMENT DOESN'T CREATE JOBS, PEOPLE DO

- **Expand the job creation tax credit to \$400 per month and apply the credit to companies when they hire someone off of the unemployment rolls.**
- **Repeal the 10% corporate tax surcharge.**
- **Repeal the Business Entity Tax.**
- **Require a jobs impact statement on ten bills that get JFed out of the Finance Committee.**
- **Create a task force to recommend ways to pay off Connecticut's unemployment fund debt to the federal government.**
- **Streamline DMV operations through privatization and on-line services for renewals of non-commercial drivers' licenses and registrations.**
- **Expand the use of reverse auctions for purchasing.**

WE SHOULD HAVE ALL THE GOVERNMENT WE NEED, BUT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT WE NEED

- Reduce legislator franking costs/privileges through enhanced use of e-mail to communicate with constituents.
- Analyze leased space, eliminate unnecessary leases, and relocate employees as necessary.
- Require “direct deposit” of all state payroll checks.
- Require a centralized, uniform electronic process for recording and transmitting state employee time records throughout state agencies.
- When possible, allow board and commission meetings and public hearings to be conducted using online meeting software to reduce travel reimbursements.

EMPOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE LOCAL DECISIONS

- **Require a 2/3 vote to create or expand unfunded mandates on municipalities.**
- **Allow any town to be exempted from the in-school suspension mandate for up to two years.**
- **Allow towns to delay for two years the implementation of any requirements under “Race To the Top” (PA 10-111) due to the state’s failure to qualify for federal funding.**
- **Delay the Raise-the-Age mandate for 17 year olds.**
 - o Provide that municipal budget reserve fund balances of 10% or less shall not be considered by the arbitration panel in calculating the financial capability of a municipality. Authorize a municipality to reject an arbitration award by a vote of two-thirds of its legislative body, and provide that any such rejected award shall be subject to contract negotiations rather than a second arbitration, except that if no agreement is reached 45 days after the rejection, parties shall submit to final and binding arbitration.
- **Require a biennial state audit of municipalities with a population of 30,000 or more that also receive state aid exceeding 35% of their budgets.**