



CONTRACT WITH  
**CONNECTICUT**



PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES



AN AFFORDABLE CONNECTICUT



GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU



FAMILIES FIRST



LOCAL CONTROL



# Protecting Our Communities

*Our state's criminal justice system has been watered down under the banner of progress through legislation designed to give criminals the softest landing possible while making life more difficult for victims, law enforcement officers and the communities they protect. Republicans will undo barriers police face when performing their duties, while ensuring that criminals are held responsible for their actions and that victims' voices are again being heard and respected.*

## Safe Streets

- Remove certain violent crimes from being eligible for clean slate, such as the act of intentional possession of a weapon on school grounds, revenge porn, bribery and obstructing and threatening police officers. (HB 5334)
- Require those who commit murder resulting from an act of domestic violence to serve a life sentence without an opportunity for release. (HB 5335)
- Lower the age for the enhanced penalty of enticing minors to commit crimes. (HB 5336)
- Automatically revoke a bond for any crime of violence if the defendant reoffends with another crime of violence while awaiting disposition. (HB 5824)
- Require bail bondsmen to have and maintain trustee accounts that are subject to an audit by the licensing authority. (HB 5824)
- Prevent bail bondsmen from circumventing bond deposits requirements by making it an offense to do so punishable by license revocation, fines, and prison time. (HB 5824)
- Create a threshold by which a defendant automatically does not qualify for a public defender if they have posted a significant amount of bond that contradicts their claim of being impoverished. (HB 5824)
- Add an additional 2 years to the mandatory minimum sentence for a carjacking that involves a firearm or deadly weapon. (HB 5337)
- Enhance penalties for crimes committed using a stolen vehicle or stolen firearms. (HB 5337)
- Expand the circumstances under which juveniles charged with certain violent crimes are automatically transferred to the regular criminal docket. (HB 5338)

- Require mandatory fingerprinting of juveniles arrested for a felony, a Class A Misdemeanor, a charge resulting from loss of life or serious physical injury, a sexual assault, a serious juvenile offense, or an offense involving use of a firearm. (HB 5338)
- Allow courts to find that releasing the juvenile offender to parents/guardians who have no control over the child is not “reasonably likely to be effective”. (HB 5338)
- Require Family Support Services interventions to be ordered at arraignment in juvenile court, rather than after adjudication. (HB 5338)
- Require judges to order the Department of Children and Families to investigate juveniles charged with a felony, a Class A Misdemeanor, a charge resulting from loss of life or serious physical injury, a sexual assault, a serious juvenile offense, or an offense involving use of a firearm. (HB 5338)
- Reestablish the Family with Service Needs (FWSN) program to provide a diversion program for children who are beyond control, run aways, or are truant in schools. (HB 5339)
- Require the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection to publish firearm data which details the nature of the gun crime committed. Data should be in the aggregate and shall include, but not be limited to, firearm crimes committed by (1) those with prior felony and misdemeanor convictions who are prohibited from possessing firearms, (2) those possessing “assault weapons” who did not legally register them or are barred from possessing firearms and (3) any person who has prior criminal convictions that prohibit them from possessing firearms and ammunition. (HB 5360)

## Victims' Rights

- Dedicate additional funding to the victims’ compensation fund to reimburse victims of car theft and other property theft and damage, regardless of arrest. (HB 5458)
- Allow for the potential of restitution in the juvenile docket (potentially limited to motor vehicle offenses as a precondition for application into 2019 motor vehicle diversionary program). (HB 5458)
- Expand the victim’s compensation fund to include crimes committed by juveniles. (HB 5458)
- Provide adequate funding and resources for the Office of Victim Advocate. (HB 5458)
- Require crimes involving violence, theft of a motor vehicle, sexual offenses, or offenses involving use of a firearm to be adjudicated in the geographical area (GA) where the offense occurred, not where the perpetrator resides. (HB 5459)
- Require the Judicial Branch to study and, if possible, implement victim impact panels in juvenile delinquency proceedings. (HB 5458)

- Reestablish statewide the alert notification/GPS system to provide victims of domestic violence and law enforcement notifications of offenders who approach too close to a victim's home or workplace. (HB 5825)

## Supporting Law Enforcement

- Protect law enforcement and municipalities from being forced to settle in qualified immunity cases because any denial under current law bars them from appealing that decision until after jury decision. (HB 5361)
- Evaluate the use of force from the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation, based on the totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the officer at the time, rather than with the benefit of hindsight, and that the totality of the circumstances shall account for occasions when officers may be forced to make quick judgments about the use of force. (HB 5361)
- Provide clarity and list circumstances under which police can be decertified for undermining public confidence. (HB 5362)
- Provide towns an opportunity to purchase surplus military equipment provided it is for public safety purposes. (HB 5361)
- Restore the ability for police to request consent searches during motor vehicle stops when there is reasonable suspicion of a crime. (HB 5361)
- Require P.O.S.T. to rewrite the police pursuit policy to allow pursuit of property crime offenses. (HB 5361)
- Create a special account for families of officers killed in action. (HB 5363)

## Installing Cannabis Safety Measures

- Cap the amount of THC that is present inside a single vape cartridges. These cartridges are sold in .5 mL and 1 mL sizes so two caps are required to effectively regulate the potency of this method of ingestion. (HB 5434)
- Create parity with tobacco products by requiring the placement of a health warning label on the individual packaging of cannabis products. The health warning label shall warn the consumer that the product may be addictive, lead to birth effects and may cause psychosis. (HB 5434)
- Prohibit the sale of CBD or THC products by holders of a Retail Gasoline Dealer License. (HB 5434)
- Delay implementation of the retail sale of marijuana for recreational purposes until the Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) training programs necessary for effective police enforcement of motor vehicle laws are operational. (HB 5434)



- Require the employment and presence of a certified budtender on site at all retail cannabis locations during their hours of operation. (HB 5434)
- Prohibit marijuana consumption in all locations where alcohol consumption is prohibited. (HB 5434)
- Repeal the statute that prohibits a law enforcement officer from using the odor of cannabis as a basis to support a stop or search of a person or motor vehicle. (HB 5434)
- Clarify that the term “imminent risk of serious harm” as it is used in the mandatory reporting statutes include the scenario where a parent or guardian who is visibly under the influence of cannabis drives to a daycare to pick up their child and attempts to leave with the child. (HB 5434)
- Require student drivers to complete as part of their driver’s education course at least 4 hours focused on the effects and impacts of cannabis on the operation of a motor vehicle. (HB 5434)
- Prohibiting the sale of edibles. (HB 5434)
- Require cannabis products to be sold in child-proof containers. (HB 5434)
- Require DCP to review and approve each cannabis product type and its dosage. (HB 5434)
- Require DCP to review cannabis tracking procedures for cannabis sold. (HB 5434)
- Designate cannabis as a schedule II controlled substance. (HB 5434)
- Specify that secondhand cannabis smoke is toxic to human health. (HB 5434)



## An Affordable Connecticut

*Connecticut is one of the most expensive states to live in and has some of the most burdensome taxes in the nation. Residents deserve robust tax relief and sensible policies that would reduce the cost of living through structural relief rather than one-time gimmicks.*

### State Tax Relief

- Cut the income tax from 5% to 4% for families making less than \$175,000 a year. (HB 5310)
- Index state income tax brackets to inflation so personal income doesn’t lose value due to inflation. This addresses the problem of someone being subject to a higher tax bracket due to inflation rather than an increase in income. (HB 5310)





- Repeal the highway use tax on trucks that will only drive up the costs of consumer goods and services. (HB 5290)
- Reduce the sales tax to adjust annually for increased revenues due to inflation and eliminate the 1% meals tax. (HB 5291)
- Allow long-term care insurance premiums to be deducted from the state income tax. (HB 5292)
- Reduce the annual business reporting fees paid by small businesses to the Secretary of State. (HB 5306)
- Restore the Pass-Through Entity Tax Credit multiplier to 93.01% after the 2019-2020 budget reduced it to 87.5%. The point of pass-through entities was to help taxpayers shift their state tax burden away from the individual tax filer to accommodate federal tax reforms that limited an individual's state and local tax (SALT) deductions to \$10,000. (HB 5293)
- Repeal taxes and fees which cost more to collect than the revenue they generate. (HB 5294)

## Keeping the Lights On

- Place a moratorium on the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) procuring any new energy contracts until the legislature re-assesses the state's long term energy goals considering high electric costs and reconfirms to the DEEP to move forward with such projects. (HB 5285)
- Separate the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) that oversees utility rates independent from the DEEP. (HB 5285)
- Remove from the electric delivery rate the system benefit charges and instead require the legislature to appropriate funding for programs since they are legislative policies and priorities. (HB 5285)
- Review the state's role in expanding natural gas to prevent rolling blackouts. (HB 5285)
- Establish a taskforce to evaluate the provision of competition in the electric delivery and transmission sectors. (HB 5285)





# Government that Works for You

*State government working to preserve—if not grow—itsself isn't new, but the severity of the problem was laid bare by the pandemic as residents who needed government agencies lost faith in bureaucrats who went missing on key issues such as unemployment claims and dizzying school quarantine rules that kept kids out of the classroom and parents out of work. Republicans will demand that someone answer the phone when you call your government for help, reopening state agencies and buildings while also preventing the Executive Branch from encroaching on the duties required of state representatives and senators—your voices at the Capitol.*

## Transparency

- Require quasi-public agencies to abide by the same transparency and ethics standards as state agencies. (HB 5692)
- Require certain quasi-public agencies to competitively bid contracts while also making them subject to the oversight of the contracting standards board. (HB 5692)
- Require disclosures on campaign material or advertising that feature or quote anyone who is a registered lobbyist that they are a paid lobbyist who have a vested interest in the outcome of the election. (HB 5427)
- Increase the individual donations a statewide candidate for office can collect from an individual to \$1,000 to make it easier to run against self-funded candidates. (HB 5312)
- Require “paid for by” campaign disclosures to be of sufficient contrast to be legible by the reader. (HB 5427)

## Accountability

- Remove our state's emission standards from California's control and direction by adopting the federal standard. (HB 5277)
- Extend the bond lock to protect against excessive spending. (HB 5309)
- Protect the integrity of the new constitutional right to early voting by limiting early voting to the Saturday and Monday prior to election day and requiring in-person voting at town hall at times that are uniform statewide.



- Require Photo ID in order to vote and require Registrars of Voters to report incidents of voter fraud to the Secretary of the State. (HB 5425)
- Require that any legislation affecting election law, such early voting, be approved by a newly established bipartisan legislative commission on elections. (HB 5426)
- Merge the Appropriations and the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committees to create a Ways and Means Committee to craft a balanced and holistic budget more effectively.
- Expand the Accountability Subcommittee to include members of the Appropriations and Finance Committees who shall be required to meet and review the efficacy of agency programs and the dollars we spend on them.
- Require the committees of cognizance to review the State Auditor reports and require the state agencies to be more accountable for consistent failures and discrepancies.
- Require the State Auditors of Public Accounts to audit financially distressed municipalities that are under the purview of the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB). (HB 5346)
- Require legislative review of any debt service contracts between OPM and financially distressed municipalities. (HB 5346)
- Require the State Treasurer to direct excess state revenue to pay down bonded indebtedness in addition to pension debt obligations. (HB 5295)
- Update our civil preparedness and public health emergency statutes and executive order emergency powers to reflect modern realities and emerging threats, and to retain a legislative role in defining the duration of such powers. (HB 5311)
- Enable the legislature to fill PURA vacancies if the Governor fails to select a nominee within six months of the vacancy occurring. (HB 5407)
- Require each agency to have an internal policy to review whether public and customer service is satisfactory and timely and execute a plan to meet those expectations.
- Require the Department of Motor Vehicles to have a dedicated line for processing same day car dealer registrations. (HB 5371)







# Families First

*Parents are the first teachers of their children and they, not politicians and government bureaucrats, have the ultimate responsibility for their children's education. Republicans will ensure parents are front and center when it comes to decisions about their family's education and healthcare. We will make sure their voices are heard in developing new government policies and decisions that will not place undue stress on families.*

- Require SDE to develop an online k-12 school limited to children who are unable to attend school in-person. (HB 5268)
- Provide each caucus leader with an appointment to the State Board of Education which is currently made up of 14 gubernatorial appointed members. Leadership appointments would balance the board to ensure that the interests of our districts are represented when developing education policies. (HB 5274)
- Provide parental choice by eliminating the complex formula that underfunds education with Money Follows the Child.
- Reserve a portion of the Roberta Willis Scholarship fund for students interested in attending post-secondary vocational schools. (HB 5439)
- Prioritize state scholarships to address school and early education teacher shortages. (HB 5440)
- Apply new certification requirements for early childhood education to new teachers only and exempt current early childhood educators from having to be recertified. (HB 5269)
- Require the State Department of Education to perform a “scope of review” on any new curriculum through a public hearing process prior to implementing that new curriculum. (HB 5274)
- Establish a tax credit for donations made to nonprofit entities that provide access and opportunity scholarships. (HB 5424)
- Require impact statements and reporting on all policies affecting children in public schools and childcare settings any time a health emergency or alert is declared.

## Family Health and Well-Being

Expand to the whole state a very successful program currently in use by Troops D and E that provides advanced de-escalation tactics and training to those that receive calls related to mental health, overdoses, and substance abuse related incidents. (HB 5364)

Increase accessibility to and affordability of mental health services by allowing in-state students who are enrolled in a doctoral program of psychology, under supervision, to provide community and telehealth counseling opportunities to mental health patients who are in need of such services. (HB 5477)

Address our opioid and fentanyl epidemic by funding the Navigator Program to facilitate engagement between treatment providers and increase support capacity, increasing criminal penalties for dealers, and establishing a Chief Drug Policy Officer to coordinate efforts to fight opioid use across a multitude of state agencies. (HB 5313)

Allow police to take into protective custody a person who is suffering from a drug overdose and incapacitated and allow them to transfer such person to a medical treatment facility or hospital so they get the help and treatment they need. (HB 5498)

Require parental consent for the provision of children's mental health services. (HB 5354)



## Local Control

*Who better to decide what's best for our cities and towns than the men and women who are locally elected to lead them? Republicans will fight to protect local control in all areas of municipal governance, ensuring local property taxpayers have the loudest, most influential voice on issues that affect the very fabric of their community.*

- Provide a dedicated centralized website for municipalities to access helpful information on state mandates including deadlines and any other pertinent information that could be useful for cities and towns.
- Assist all Boards of Education to include all PreK-12 curriculum materials on their websites and allow public comment on all agendas. (HB 5270)
- Take a more honest approach to affordable housing by including existing properties that meet income-based affordability standards and eliminate deed restrictions for owner occupied affordable housing which restricts the ability to create equity. (HB 5326)
- Require a two-thirds vote of the legislature to pass any new conveyance taxes.
- Allow greater municipal control over zoning by removing the deadline by which a municipality must act to opt out of the "as of right" accessory apartment requirements. (HB 5326)