



City of Danbury 2007 Legislative Agenda Mayor Mark D. Boughton

URGENT PRIORITIES

- Maintain budgeted State aid for current fiscal year and minimize impact of future reductions from current levels.
- Increase maximum fines issued by municipalities from \$100 to \$1,000 when a registered sex offender enters a “Child Safe Zone” in violation of local ordinance.
- Allow municipalities to levy substantive fines and lien property owners for populating illegal apartments that create major health & safety hazards and enforcement challenges.
- Allow municipalities to define a household in local ordinance to address overpopulation of housing units with unrelated residents – essentially creating illegal rooming houses.
- Provide funding for start-up costs of the Western Connecticut Academy for International Studies magnet school.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Provide funding for comprehensive upgrades to emergency radio communications systems - \$2,200,000
- Provide funding for interoperable communications between state & local emergency operations.
- Implement a statewide coordinated Geographic Information System (GIS) employing municipal data that allows for information exchanges between state, regional and local planners and emergency operations.

EDUCATION

- Maintain State aid for public education - especially increasing Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding and special education costs.
- Continue funding and designation of Danbury as a Priority School District Grant recipient.
- Provide State funding for acquisition and renovation of the Palace Theatre and creation of the Western Connecticut Academy for the Performing Arts Regional Magnet School in CityCenter Danbury - \$14,500,000.
- Continue School Readiness Act grant funds to Danbury for early childhood development programs.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

- Increase Payments-in-lieu-of taxes (PILOT) programs
- Increase Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) funding.
- Retain current level of municipality's share of the Real Estate Conveyance tax.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Provide funding to implement the City of Danbury's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.
- Retain funding for School-Based Health Care Centers.
- Increase the per capita funding formula for local public health departments.
- Restore insurance coverage for low-income families and individuals through Medicaid, HUSKY A, HUSKY B, and SAGA.

ELDERLY SERVICES

- Provide funding for the Danbury Senior Center. Phase 3 - \$1,850,000. The City of Danbury funded Phase 1 - \$1,450,000 and is employing \$3,200,000 in Section 108 CDBG funds for Phase 2 currently under design.

TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

- Interstate 84 Corridor (Exits 1-10)
- Interstate 84. Exit 5. Rt. 37 - Down Street & North Street improvements
- Interstate 84. Exit 6. Rt. 37. North Street to Barnum Road improvements
- Main Street South Streetscape
- Triangle Street, South Street & Coalpit Hill Intersection Improvements.
- Route 6 / Lake Ave. Ext. & Mill Plain Road. Interstate 84. Exit 2 to Exit 4.
- White Street, Fifth Avenue & Osborne Street improvements surrounding the Western Connecticut State University Downtown Campus
- Upgrade rail crossings on Main Street (Rt. 53), White Street, Maple Avenue, Balmforth Avenue and Segar Street.
- Create rail passenger service from Danbury to New Milford
- Upgrade rail passenger service on the Danbury-Norwalk line

ENVIRONMENT

- Continue State funding for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program to include land connecting the Terre Haute property and Tarrywile Park to Wooster Mountain State Park to create the Ives Trail in Danbury, Bethel & Ridgefield - \$3,500,000.
- Provide State funding for the Candlewood Lake Environmental Education Center – Phase 2 at the Danbury Town Park - \$650,000. The City of Danbury funded Phase 1 with \$500,000 in municipal bonds.
- Provide Clean Water Funds for nitrogen removal upgrades at the Danbury WPCP - \$3,000,000
- Flood mitigation funding for Blind Brook, East Ditch & Kohanza Brook - \$8,500,00
- Provide funding for noise abatement at Wooster Mountain State Park's gun range.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Provide State funding for the Westside Sewer Interceptor - \$18,000,000.
- Provide State funding for acquisition and renovation of the Palace Theatre and creation of the Western Connecticut Academy for the Performing Arts Regional Magnet School in CityCenter Danbury - \$14,500,000.
- Support the Legislative Agendas of the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials and the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce.