



# CONTRACT WITH **CONNECTICUT**

***We envision a new legislature that trusts the people of Connecticut to make their own choices for themselves and their families.***

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**Republicans believe this principle**—that our state government must begin to work for the people who pay for it rather than the bureaucrats and career politicians that control it. Republicans come from all walks of life but are unified in a commitment to create a vibrant and affordable state where kids can thrive, adults can make decisions for themselves, and our senior population is respected and cared for. This November offers voters a unique opportunity to elect a new legislative majority that will challenge the status quo and transform a state government that is too big, too expensive, and too intrusive.



### **AN AFFORDABLE CONNECTICUT**

Connecticut residents face tremendous financial pressure through the toxic combination of runaway inflation, decades of tax increases, and bad policies from statehouse Democrats. The cost of living is untenable, and residents deserve robust tax relief that would include reducing middle class income tax rates, reducing gas taxes and eliminating the Democrats' truck tax that will further increase the costs of food, goods and services.



### **PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES**

Democrats have watered down our state's criminal justice system under the banner of progress. It's clear their policies have failed, yet they're unwilling to change course—choosing to push ahead with 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 the Democrat-enacted 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.



### **FAMILIES FIRST**

Parents are the first teachers for their children and they, not politicians and government bureaucrats, have the ultimate responsibility for their kids. Connecticut needs a "families first act" to ensure they are front and center when it comes to decisions about their family's education and healthcare. We will make sure their voice is heard in developing new government policies and decisions that will not place undue stress on families.



### **MAKE GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU**

State government working to preserve—if not grow—itself 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. Republicans will not only audit how billions in federal pandemic aid has been spent; we will hold government bureaucrats accountable by demanding data and results-based metrics in budgetary and policy decisions. Republicans will shred the favoritism and cronyism that's taken hold of the state government while fighting to protect the integrity of our election process.



### **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? Democrats at the Capitol think they know better how your town should be run, favoring the agendas of lobbyists and professional advocates over the concerns of citizens who say the majority party's progressive ideas on planning and zoning, taxation and forced state mandates of schools lack common sense. We'll 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.

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## **AN AFFORDABLE CONNECTICUT ACT**

***A package of tax relief proposals to ease the tax burden on Connecticut residents.***

- Cut the income tax from 5% to 4% for families making less than \$175,000 a year and index state income tax brackets so that taxes paid on earnings do not outpace inflation
- Repeal the highway use tax on trucks that starts in January 2023. This new tax passed by the Democrats in 2021 will drive up the costs of food, consumer products and services
- Increase the property tax credit that can be claimed for real estate and motor vehicles from \$300 to \$500 to all families filing state income taxes
- Reduce the sales tax and eliminate the 1% meals tax
- Repeal taxes and fees which cost more to collect than the revenue they generate



## **THE PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES ACT**

***Legislation putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of criminals and providing law enforcement with the tools necessary to perform their duties.***

- Provide law enforcement the tools needed to keep us safe
- Increase penalties for crimes committed using a stolen vehicle or stolen firearms
- Remove certain violent crimes from eligibility for Clean Slate criminal record erasure
- Expand the circumstances under which juveniles charged with certain violent crimes are automatically transferred to the regular criminal docket
- Provide adequate funding and resources for the Office of the Victim Advocate
- Crimes should be prosecuted where they occur, not where the criminal lives



## **THE FAMILIES FIRST ACT**

***We will ensure that families are front and center when it comes to decisions about family members' education and health care, while protecting them from fraud and abuse.***

- Require impact statements and reporting on policies affecting children in public schools and childcare settings any time a health emergency or alert is declared
- Assist all Boards of Education to include all PreK-12 curriculum materials on their websites and allow public comment on all agendas.
- Add two legislative appointments to the State Board of Education, which shall be two parents—one from a district with a student population of under 1,000 students K-12 and one from a district with student population of over 3,000 students K-12
- Ensure mobile crisis services include 24 hour 7 days a week availability
- Protect senior citizens from fraud and abuse



## **THE HONESTY IN GOVERNMENT ACT**

***A package of proposals to increase transparency, accountability and adherence to strict ethical standards, including elimination of favoritism in the contracting process and increasing whistle-blower protections.***

- Create a bipartisan Ways and Means Subcommittee from existing committee resources to review and make recommendations on state agency program costs vs. results
- Allow the State Treasurer to direct excess state revenue to pay down bonded indebtedness in addition to pension debt obligations
- Update our civil preparedness and public health emergency statutes and executive order emergency powers to reflect modern realities
- Protect taxpayer resources and audit COVID funding
- Require Voter ID, require Registrars of Voters to report incidents of voter fraud to the Secretary of the State



## **THE LOCAL CONTROL ACT**

***Legislation that solidifies the ability of municipalities to govern themselves without undue state interference.***

- Provide a 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
- Remove existing state-imposed barriers to voluntary regional shared services
- 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
- Require a two-thirds vote of the legislature to pass any new conveyance taxes