Legislative Report
August 15, 2024

We are continuing to talk with the Governor's office, legislative leaders and DEEP regarding implementation of House Bill 5189, *An Act Concerning a Small Harbor improvement Projects Account*, which is now Public Act 24-48.

We have also reached out for a meeting with the governor's new chief-of-staff, Matt Brokman. He committed to meet with us once he was settled in his new role. As you may recall, the governor had identified Matt Brokman as the point of contact on his staff on dredging issues.

The state's budget situation remains under scrutiny. An article in *CT Mirror* (August 7) stated that approximately $700 million in ARPA funding evaporates at the end of the current fiscal year. Although revenue growth could fill some of this hole, projections on this will be about $500 million. Discussions will start on the fiscal year 2026 budget which will be approved by the 2025- 2026 General Assembly.

We are also continually watching for any movement in the direction of eliminating tax exemption and credits. As we have mentioned before, this debate could affect the 2.99 percent sales tax rate on boat sales.

Nonetheless, we are continuing with the plan of discussing with OPM and the Appropriations committee leaders new funding in the newly created Small Harbor Improvement Projects (SHIP) Account that could be utilized by marinas. An important point from our meeting with Senator Osten last month was the remaining $2.25 million in dredging funds are not ARPA funds, which means they do not have to be spent by December 2026.

As reported previously, Ulysses Hammond has retired from the CT Port Authority, and they are continuing to move toward a search for a replacement. The CT Port Authority would like to publicize the opening nationally to get the widest pool of talented applicants possible. David Kooris has stepped down as chairman of the CPA board, as he has taken a new position with the state, but he will remain as a board member. Kooris is the executive director at the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority.

Paul Whitescarver is the new CPA board chairman. As many of you know, he is a retired Navy Captain and a former Commander of the Navy Submarine base in Groton. We have reached out to request a meeting with Paul to discuss how CMTA can best work with the CPA.

We spoke to U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney last week, and he is organizing a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. They are hoping to get this scheduled during the August recess.

Regarding politics, the elections are approaching on Tuesday, Nov. 5. There has been a dearth of public polling on races in Connecticut, but most observers believe the Harris-Walz ticket will win the state and receive its seven electoral votes. The new ticket has energized the Democratic base nationally and this bodes well for down-ticket races. U.S. Senator Chris Murphy is considered "safe" in his race for a third term, and four of the five Democratic Members of Congress should be re-elected. The race to watch remains CT5, represented by third-term U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes. She is being challenged by former state Senator George Logan.

All 151 seats in the state House and 36 seats in the state Senate are on the ballot in November. Most observers believe the Democratic party will retain majorities in both chambers.

Connecticut held their primary on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. One of the races being watched was the four-way Democratic primary for the Bridgeport Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Marilyn Moore. Republican primaries for the U.S. Senate and 4th congressional district were also being held. Below are the results. We will keep you updated as we are on to the General Election on November 5th.

Races with Incumbents (winners in yellow)

House / Senate	District	Towns	Name	Party	Notes	Endorsement
Senate	2	: Bloomfield, Windsor, Hartford	**Douglas McCrory**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	Endorsed
Senate	2	: Bloomfield, Windsor, Hartford	Ayana Taylor	Democrat		
Senate	2	Bloomfield, Windsor, Hartford	Shellye Davis	Democrat		
Senate	23	Bridgeport, Stratford	**Herron Gaston**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	Endorsed
Senate	23	Bridgeport, Stratford	Ernest Newton	Democrat		
House	15	Bloomfield, West Hartford	**Bobby Gibson**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	
House	15	Bloomfield, West Hartford	Jennifer Marshall-Nealy	Democrat		Endorsed
House	88	Hamden	**Joshua Elliott**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	Endorsed
House	88	Hamden	Daniel Garrett	Democrat		
House	110	Danbury	**Bob Godfrey**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	Endorsed
House	110	Danbury	Melissa Santana	Democrat		
House	124	Bridgeport	**Andre Baker**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	
House	124	Bridgeport	Eneida Martinez	Democrat		Endorsed
House	140	Norwalk	**Travis Simms**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	NO ENDORSEMENT
House	140	Norwalk	Carleton Giles	Democrat		NO ENDORSEMENT
House	146	Stamford	**David Michel**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	

House	146	Stamford	Eilish Main	Democrat		Endorsed
House	148	Stamford	**Anabel Figueroa**	Democrat	**Incumbent**	
House	148	Stamford	Jonathan Jacobs	Democrat		Endorsed

Primaries for open seats (winners in yellow and recount in purple)

House / Senate	District	Towns	Name	Party	Notes	Endorsement
Senate	7	Granby, East Granby, Suffield. Windsor Locks, Enfield, Somers, Ellington	Cynthia Mangini	Democrat	Primary to be the Democratic nominee to challenge Sen. John Kissel	Endorsed
Senate	7	Granby, East Granby, Suffield. Windsor Locks, Enfield, Somers, Ellington	Nathan Wolliston	Democrat	Primary to be the Democratic nominee to challenge Sen. John Kissel	
Senate	22	Trumbull, Bridgeport, Monroe	Scott Burns	Democrat	No incumbent in race	NO ENDORSEMENT
Senate	22	Trumbull, Bridgeport, Monroe	Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox	Democrat	No incumbent in race	NO ENDORSEMENT
Senate	22	Trumbull, Bridgeport, Monroe	Tyler Mack	Democrat	No incumbent in race	NO ENDORSEMENT
Senate	22	Trumbull, Bridgeport, Monroe	William Finch	Democrat	No incumbent in race	NO ENDORSEMENT
Senate	29	Thompson, Putnam, Killingly, Pomfret, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Scotland, Windham, Mansfield	Christopher Reddy	Republican	Primary to be the Republican nominee challenging Sen. Mae Flexer	Endorsed

Senate	29	Thompson, Putnam, Killingly, Pomfret, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Scotland, Windham, Mansfield	Susanne Witkowski	Republican	Primary to be the Republican nominee challenging Sen. Mae Flexer	
House	26	New Britain	David DeFronzo	Democrat	No incumbent in race	Endorsed
House	26	New Britain	Aram Ayalon	Democrat	No incumbent in race	
House	58	Enfield	John Santanella	Democrat	No incumbent in race	Endorsed
House	58	Enfield	David Alexander	Democrat	No incumbent in race	
House	69	Roxbury, Southbury, Bridgewater, New Milford	Jason Buchsbaum	Republican	No incumbent in race	Endorsed
House	69	Roxbury, Southbury, Bridgewater, New Milford	Edwin Cady	Republican	No incumbent in race	
House	91	Hamden	Jennifer Pope	Democrat	No incumbent in race	Endorsed
House	91	Hamden	Laurie Sweet	Democrat	No incumbent in race	
House	94	New Haven	Steven Winter	Democrat	No incumbent in race	Endorsed
House	94	New Haven	Tarolyn Moore	Democrat	No incumbent in race	
House	94	New Haven	Abdul Osmanu	Democrat	No incumbent in race	