

Reprinted from: CCM/ccm-ct.org

Date: March 15, 2013

For immediate release

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MUNICIPAL IMPACT OF THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED STATE BUDGET: SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS FORUM WITH MUNICIPAL LEADERS FRIDAY, MARCH 15 – AT 1 P.M.

Municipal leaders will discuss the impact of the Governor's proposed state budget on towns and cities before a special forum of the General Assembly's Appropriations Committee on Friday, March 15, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the State Legislative Office Building, Room 2C.

Municipal leaders who are scheduled to testify include:

Ryan Bingham	Mayor of Torrington and President of CCM
Neil O'Leary	Mayor of Waterbury
John DeStefano	Mayor of New Haven and Past President of CCM
John Elsesser	Town Manager of Coventry and Vice President of COST
Barbara Gilbert	Town Manager of Rocky Hill and Treasurer of COST

Thomas McCarthy	President of the Bridgeport City Council
Leo Paul	First Selectman of Litchfield and Secretary of COST
Lisa Pellegrini	First Selectman of Somers and Board Member of CCM
Laura Francis	First Selectman of Durham and Board Member of COST
Matthew Hart	Town Manager of Mansfield

These municipal CEOs will continue to push for the General Assembly to reject:

- The unprecedented changes in the structure of state grants and payments-in-lieu-of-taxes reimbursements to cities and towns, as presented in the Governor's proposed budget.
- Towns and cities losing \$128 million in state aid that helps fund non-education operating expenses. State aid has been diverted to education and capital programs.
- The proposed elimination of the property tax on motor vehicles, without providing state funding reimbursement to municipalities – that would result in at least a \$633 million loss in local revenues annually.

Cities and towns are asking the General Assembly for help. Let's work together to develop a state budget that protects municipal revenues, residential and business property taxpayers, and the quality of life in Hometown Connecticut.