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New online CCM resource for municipal web sites, residents & business owners:

What the General Public Should Know About State-Local Relations

in Connecticut

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) today (Wednesday, September 11) is launching a new online resource for towns and cities across Connecticut that is designed to help their residents and business owners better understand the important relationship between the State and local governments.

Here is the link to that new resource on the CCM site -- <http://advocacy.ccm-ct.org/Plugs/What-the-public-should-know.aspx>. CCM is strongly encouraging local governments to imbed the link in a highly visible area of their home page; and encourage their residents and business owners in their community to click on the site and review the materials.

“Residents and business owners across the state need to know that the amount of state aid to towns and cities — money raised from state taxes and fees that the Governor and the General Assembly return to your community — directly affects the level of local services in your municipality and the amount of property taxes you pay,” said Jim Finley, CCM Executive Director and CEO.

“When your property taxes go up and municipal services don't meet your needs, ask your state legislators and the Governor if state government is providing your community with adequate financial aid. State aid can help pay for the local services you need and can keep your property taxes from going up — again,” Finley explained..

“State government and municipal governments share responsibilities and resources. Both the State and municipalities must provide a variety of important public services. But the ability of each of these two levels of government to raise money differs greatly.

“Unlike the State, towns and cities have few revenue options available to pay for services. This has resulted in the continued heavy reliance on property taxation as the major source of municipal revenue. Because the value of property varies widely from municipality to municipality, many cities and towns are unable to pay for local service needs from own-source revenues,” concluded Finley.

The following CCM Public Policy Reports will provide the initial information regarding what Connecticut taxpayers should know about the relationship between the state government and local governments in our state.

- **Municipal Finance in Connecticut: Overreliance on the Property Tax -- CCM Public Policy Report**
- **Education Finance in Connecticut: Overreliance on the Property Tax -- CCM Public Policy Report**
- **Unfunded Mandates = Higher Property Taxes -- CCM Public Policy Report**

CCM expects to add additional resources to the site.