Sen. Cicarella, Senate Republicans' Plan Puts Real Money Back in Working Families' Pockets



North Haven: State Sen. Paul Cicarella (R–34) and the Connecticut Senate Republican Caucus today unveiled a long-term affordability plan aimed at lowering taxes and reducing costs. It would effectively eliminate the car tax for working class families, limit property tax increases, lower income tax burdens for working class families, and reduce electricity bills.

"Every day, I hear from constituents asking for help on how we can bring down the rising costs they're facing," said Sen. Cicarella, "We are taking action, and we hope we will get support to provide this much needed tax relief in addressing the affordability crisis."

Under Democratic leadership, Connecticut now ranks:

3rd highest tax burden. 3rd highest electric rates. 3rd highest property taxes. 48th in new business creation. 7th lowest in business friendliness. 2nd highest wealth gap.

Sen. Cicarella and Senate Republicans are advocating for the following:

WORKING CLASS INCOME TAX CUT:

A $1 billion income tax cut

40% reduction for single filers making $50,000 and joint filers making $100,000. 16% reduction for single filers making $100,000 and joint filers making $200,000. Eliminate income tax for single filers making $25,000. Up to $1600 in tax relief for joint filers, up to $800 for a single filer.

WORKING CLASS CAR TAX ELIMINATION:

100% refundable income tax credit for single filers making less than $100,000 and joint filers making less than $200,000 on property taxes paid to towns on their cars. No loss of revenue to towns. Maintains existing $300 property tax credit.

The Senate Republican Caucus Affordability Plan also includes:

Institute a Property Tax Levy Cap for municipalities of the greater of 2% or the cost of inflation. Towns are allowed to override the cap for major projects with 60% vote at referendum. Eliminate occupational license fees for professions including: electrician. HVAC, plumber, teacher, realtor, speech and language pathologist. Reduce the Payroll tax (CT Paid Family Leave) by 20%. Implement the Bipartisan Supported Association Health Plans. Cut All Public Benefits Charges from electric bills for end use customers of each electric distribution company and move such expenses to the state budget process. Cap Power Purchase Agreements at 2.5 times the wholesale price of electricity. Prohibit PURA from Enacting Programs with Ratepayer Impact without Legislative Approval. Immediate study by state agencies on how to reduce the costs of living and working for the people, businesses, municipalities, and non-profit organizations of Connecticut

"This plan helps the people who make Connecticut run, tradespeople, teachers, healthcare workers, small business owners, and families who are rooted here and depend on this state to work," Sen. Cicarella added.

16th Annual Hamden Restaurant Week Winter Edition - February 23-28

The **Hamden** Regional Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Hamden Restaurant Week - Winter Edition will take place Monday, February 23 through Saturday, February 28, presented by Bankwell.

Participating restaurants will feature:

- Prix fixe lunch menus ranging from $15–$25
- Prix fixe dinner menus ranging from $30–$45
- Some restaurants offering both lunch and dinner options
- Select restaurants offering two-for-one or other creative dining promotions

The easiest way to stay up to date on participating restaurants and menu offerings is to download the Hello Hamden Community App, available for free on iPhone and Android devices. Diners may also visit: www.hamdenrestaurantweek.com for details.

For additional information call (203) 288-6431 or visit: hamdenregionalchamber.com.

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North Haven Memorial Library February/March Programs

To register for a program at North Haven Memorial Library (17 Elm St.), visit our website at www.northhavenlibrary.net or call us at (203) 239-5803. ***Registration is required for all programs except for those noted otherwise.***

Toddler Time: Wed., Feb. 25, 10:30am-11am. Age Group: 2-3 yrs. Parent/Caregivers and their toddlers will interact with books, learn fingerplays and sing.

Magic - The Gathering - Teen Meetup: Wed., Feb. 25, 2:30-4pm. Grades: 6th-12th. No Registration Required. Bring your deck(s) to compete and your favorite cards to show and tell. Our extra cards and pre-made decks are kept in the teen area.

Canva for Teens: Wed., February 25, 3pm-4:30pm. Grades: 9th-12th. Canva is a free-to-use design tool perfect for social media posts, posters, slideshows, and school projects of all kinds. You're welcome to bring a laptop or tablet (must be compatible with the Canva app) to follow along, but no tech is required to learn something from this class. Any current 8th grade students interested in Canva are welcome to join us. Spots are limited!

Lullaby Library Tales: Wed., Feb. 25, 6-6:30pm. Age Group: 2-5 yrs. Put on your coziest PJ's and head over to the library for some soothing stories, songs, and goodnight stretches.

Romance Book Club: Wed., Feb. 25, 6:30-7:45pm. For the month of February, we will be reading and discussing *Deke Me* by Kimberly Readnour.

Baby Rhyme Time: Thurs., Feb. 26, 10:30-11:15am. Age Group: 0-3 mos. to 12-24 mos. Registration is Recommended. Walk-ins are always welcome. This program brings caregivers and babies together to nurture bonds and increase awareness of the child's development.

OK, Chef!: Thurs., Feb. 26, 6-6:30pm. Age Group: 6-9 yrs. Time to get crafty in the kitchen! Bring your imagination (and taste buds!) and learn to decorate a special seasonal treat!

Playdoh Party: Fri., Feb. 27, 10:30-11am. Age Group: 2-5 yrs. No Registration Required. We have the playdoh, tools, and idea mats so just bring your artistic talent.

Readers and Writers for Homeschooled Teens: Fri., February 27, 10:30am-12pm. Grades: 6th-12th. We'll share our favorite books, chat about our latest writings, and get those creative juices flowing with fun activities.

Must See Movie: *Lee*: Fri., Feb. 27, 1:30-3:30pm. No Registration Required. War correspondent Lee Miller travels to the front lines of World War II to embark on a mission to uncover the hidden truths of the Third Reich.

ALL MARCH LONG - Staff Pets Scavenger Hunt: No Registration Required. Can you find all 10 of the staff's pets hidden in the Children's Department?

ALL MARCH LONG - Teen Spotlight Challenge: Grades: 6th-12th. No Registration Required. Each month we'll be highlighting a special part of our library. Think you can find it? Visit the teen area (check the big TV!) anytime throughout March to see a super up-close picture of something we have in the building. If you find where we took the photo, you'll win a prize.

Parent Playdate: Monday, March 2, 10-11am. Ages: Parents/Caregivers of Children Ages 0-5 years. No Registration Required. Enjoy getting to know other parents/caregivers and their little ones, and check out all that the library has to offer.

Calm Connections: Mon., March 2, 11am-12 noon. Age Group: 0-5 yrs. No Registration Required. We encourage parents in our community to come together every Monday morning in the Children's Department to play. There will be a quick touch and feel story time about halfway through the hour.

Tai Chi with Debbie: Mon., March 2, 11am-12 noon. Tai Chi is very gentle on your joints, it increases strength and mobility, decreases stress and greatly improves balance. If you cannot attend all five sessions please do not register. Reminder: Upon registration you are automatically registered for each session in this 5 week series.

LEGO Club: Mon., March 2, 6-7pm. Ages: 4-12 yrs. No Registration Required. Drop by and create with LEGO™! We provide the LEGOS™ and you provide the creativity!

Bilingual Storytime: Tues., March 3, 10:30-11am. Ages: 12-24 mos. to 5 yrs. This story time is perfect for parents/caregivers and their little ones who speak Spanish and/or English already or for those who don't, but would like to learn!

German Conversation Group: Tues., March 3, 4-5pm, Community Room and Zoom. Come practice your German speaking in an informal group.

Switch Party: Tues., March 3, 6pm-6:45pm. Ages: 6-11 yrs. No Registration Required. Join us at the Library for a gaming party where we will play some multiplayer switch games together! *We have limited switch controllers, so please bring your own from home to jump in on the fun.

Middle School Chess Club: Tues., March 3, 6-7pm. Grades: 6th-8th. This program is run by an awesome teen volunteer! Interested in learning the game of chess? Looking for more middle schoolers to play with? Join our highly-requested Middle School Chess Club!

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WANTED: Collector buying old photographs from the 1800's on glass, tin or paper, of people, places or things; (203) 915-7662 •

FOR SALE: Cast iron chimera with ornate flowers & birds, 38"H $100; (203) 887-0051 •

WANTED: Old tools, musical instruments, military, Winchesters, Colts, antique guns & old hunting & fishing. We buy gold & silver coins and jewelry. Anything related to vintage jewelry. Call Joe, (203) 488-7271 •

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ACADEMIC Excellence

GRADUATES

University of Maryland Global Campus

The following local area residents graduated from University of Global Campus (UMGC) in the Fall 2025 term:

Hamden: Stephen Brewster, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration;

Nathaniel Talmadge, earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

PRESIDENT'S and CHANCELLOR'S LIST

University of Arkansas

Wallingford resident, Madelyn Harrison joins a select group of students who have achieved a 4.0 grade-point average for the Fall 2025 semester while completing at least 12 credit hours of coursework required for graduation.

New York Institute of Technology

Wallingford resident, Amy Umacheril has been named to the Fall 2025 Presidential Honor List at New York Institute of Technology.

DEAN'S LIST

Ohio University

North Haven resident, Connor Forlenzo has been named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List at Ohio University, located in Athens, Ohio.

University of Tampa

University of Tampa has named and honored the following Dean's List students from the local area for the Fall 2025 semester:

North Haven: Adrina Tuozzoli, is a Sophomore majoring in Nursing BSN.

Wallingford: Olivia Cella, is a Junior majoring in Psychology BA.

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NARFE Meeting

North Haven: The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Chapter 257 monthly meeting will be held Monday, March 2, 1pm at the North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church St. All active and retired federal workers are invited to attend.

The guest speaker will be Registered Dietitian Marisa McCoy who will present the Mind Diet for Brain Health.

NARFE is dedicated to protecting and preserving the earned benefits of federal workers and retirees.

For info: http://www.Narfe.org

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WANTED: Buying older beer cans, flats, conetops, single cans or entire collections; (203) 915-7662 •

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