Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

collaborating for the common good

2027 Legislative Priorities:

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) has released its 2027 legislative agenda, outlining a comprehensive platform aimed at strengthening local budgets, addressing rising educational costs, and modernizing state regulations. Centered on six primary priorities alongside eleven additional bills of importance, the agenda seeks to reduce the burden on local property taxpayers while empowering towns and cities to better serve their residents.

Top Six Legislative Priorities:

1. Increasing Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Funding
At the forefront of CCM's agenda is updating the state's ECS formula to account for inflation and rising operational expenses. CCM proposes increasing the ECS foundation grant from $11,525 to $16,000 per pupil and indexing it to inflation annually. The organization also calls for phasing in full weighted ECS funding for public schools of choice, such as magnet and agriscience schools, which currently receive only 42% of their full weighted funding, alongside reviewing recommendations from the Governor's Blue Ribbon Education Funding Commission

2. Establishing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Working Group
To balance government transparency with municipal administrative capacity, CCM advocates for a working group to examine FOIA reforms. This group would review vexatious or repetitive requests, assess the use of FOIA for purposes resembling civil discovery, and evaluate whether current municipal fee structures adequately reflect the actual administrative costs of fulfilling requests.

3. Expanding State Funding for Special Education
Local school districts continue to face mounting special education expenses. CCM urges the state to fund 100% of local special education costs or, at a minimum, fully fund the Excess Cost Grant. Additionally, the agenda calls for phasing in full funding for the Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) Grant—increasing it from $30 million to $191 million—and permitting districts to use SEED funds for third-party hiring when specialized roles like nurses, speech pathologists, and school psychologists remain vacant. CCM also supports a district-level "right to try" initiative utilizing performance metrics to evaluate special education services.

4. Boosting Municipal Aid and Property Tax Relief
To relieve pressure on local property taxes, CCM seeks permanent, full funding of the municipal share of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund. The platform also recommends splitting the additional 1% meals and beverage tax revenue equally between municipalities and the Office of Tourism, allowing towns to retain 100% of real estate

conveyance tax revenue, and increasing the municipal share of licensing, permitting, and citation fees. Furthermore, CCM proposes increasing state funding for early voting while reducing the number of early voting days based on actual utilization and administrative costs.

5. Increasing Affordable Housing Opportunities
CCM is calling for updates to Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-30g to encourage practical housing development. Specifically, the organization recommends allowing municipalities to reduce the current 40-year deed restriction requirement and creating a mechanism to count naturally occurring affordable housing units—even those without formal deed restrictions—toward the state's 10% affordable housing threshold and municipal moratorium eligibility.

6. Enhancing Regulation of Scooters, E-Bikes, and Mopeds
In response to growing safety concerns surrounding micro-mobility devices, CCM proposes mandatory vehicle registration for scooters, e-bikes, and mopeds to establish clearer accountability for parents and guardians who provide them to youth. This measure would be paired with expanded youth and parent education on traffic laws, legal operation, proper storage, and the consequences of unsafe riding.

Bills of Importance:

Beyond its top six priorities, CCM has identified eleven additional Bills of Importance critical to municipal operations:

- **Grid-Scale Solar Siting Reform:** Extending Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) eligibility to tax-exempt commercial solar installations, prioritizing brownfields and commercial sites over farmland and forests, and granting municipal representation on the Connecticut Siting Council.

- **Tire Stewardship:** Requiring all tire retailers to join the state stewardship program to curb illegal dumping and municipal cleanup expenses.

- **DEEP Permitting Reform:** Holding DEEP accountable for its permitting timelines and allowing qualified licensed environmental professionals to review select applications.

- **Workers' Compensation Reform:** Reducing enhanced workers' compensation provisions involving teachers and adjusting enhanced wage replacement from 100% to 75% of after-tax average weekly earnings, which is the standard wage replacement level for workers' compensation.

- **Paid Sick Leave Reform:** Amending Public Act 24-8 so employers can request reasonable documentation for qualifying leave.

- **Local Public Health Funding:** Extending state per-capita funding to all municipal health departments, including those serving fewer than 50,000 residents.

- **Public Safety Technologies:** Preserving municipal authority to deploy red-light, speed, and school bus stop-arm enforcement cameras while maintaining statutory

and privacy safeguards.

- **Emergency Department Crowding:** Permitting appropriate EMS transports to urgent care centers and expanding the authority of qualified radiologic technicians to perform specific CT scans.

- **Housing Expansion and Funding:** Increasing state investments in affordable senior housing, elderly rental assistance vouchers, supportive housing, and single-room occupancy units.

- **Mass Transit:** Expanding funding for rail, bus, and highway infrastructure alongside permanent funding for municipal micro-transit programs.

- **Municipal Parks Funding:** Creating sustainable state funding through grants, direct allocations, and performance-based maintenance programs.

Through this comprehensive 2027 legislative package, CCM aims to foster a stronger partnership between the state and its 169 municipalities, ensuring sustainable public services and fiscal stability for Connecticut communities.