

Middlesex Coalition for CHILDREN



Legislative Handbook 2016

A Guide to the Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Representing Towns in Middlesex County

The Middlesex Coalition for Children's mission is to improve the lives of children growing up in Middletown and Middlesex County. The Coalition holds public meetings monthly on issues important to children. It convenes task forces to mobilize and coordinate community efforts to address specific children's issues, and advocates for children at the local, state and national levels.

Please join us for our meetings every second Thursday of the month at
the Dekoven House at 9 am. Sept-May



More Information on the Legislature

You can visit the Coalition’s website for an electronic version of this handbook, complete with live links.

For full summaries of the events and meetings scheduled at the Capitol, daily live stream of the State House and State Senate, and bill tracking, please visit www.cga.ct.gov

Previous Sessions are recorded and can be found at: www.ctn.state.ct.us/ondemand.asp

Committees

Appropriations Committee Dante Bartolomeo Paul Formica Matt Lesser Noreen Kokoruda Melissa Ziobron (Ranking Member)	Judiciary Committee Paul Doyle (Vice Chair) Vincent Candelora Christie Carpino Art Linares Joseph Serra
Public Health Committee Vincent Candelora Christie Carpino Ted Kennedy Jr.	Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee Dante Bartolomeo (Co-Chair) Devin Carney Jesse MacLachlan
Education Committee Dante Bartolomeo Noreen Kokoruda Art Linares	Committee on Children Dante Bartolomeo Noreen Kokoruda Melissa Ziobron
Public Safety and Security Committee Paul Formica	These committees have no members from our delegation: Housing Committee Human Services Committee

Bills of Interest 2016

To view the Coalition’s Bills of Interest for the 2014-2015 Legislative Session, please visit our website.



Emil Altobello (D)
House District 82
Representing Middlefield

Representative Altobello is serving his 11th term in the House of Representatives. A member of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, he has served in many capacities on bonding sub-committees and the Bond Commission. A native of Meriden and graduate of Meriden schools, he was a member of the Meriden City Council from 1987 to 1995, where he served as Majority Leader, Chairman of the Public Works Committee and Chairman of the Finance & Budget Committee. He is active in many Meriden clubs and organizations.

Aide: Barry Hubbard
barry.hubbard@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8585

housedems.ct.gov/Altobello
Emil.Altobello@cga.ct.gov

Legislative Office Building
Room 4015
Hartford, CT 06106

555 Preston Ave
Meriden, CT 06450

Aide: Sue Driscoll
sue.driscoll@cga.ct.gov
860 240 0441

senatedems.ct.gov/Bartolomeo.php
Dante.Bartolomeo@cga.ct.gov

facebook.com/DanteStateSenate

State Capitol Building
Room 011
Hartford, CT 06106

167 Reynolds Drive
Meriden, CT 06450



Dante Bartolomeo (D)
Senate District 13
Representing Middlefield and Middletown

Senator Bartolomeo is serving her second term as Senator. A member of the Meriden City Council from 2008 - 2012, her roles included Deputy Majority Leader. Between 2005 and 2008, she was a member of the Board of Directors of Meriden's Children First Initiative, an organization committed to supporting children under age 8. She also served as community organizer for Healthcare4every1. She is a graduate of Mercy High School in Middletown and Colby College.



Vincent Candelora (R)
House District 86
86-Representing Durham

Representative Candelora is serving his fifth term in the House of Representatives. A graduate of Connecticut College and the Dickenson School of Law at Penn State, Rep. Candelora served on the North Branford Town Council for three terms, one term as Deputy Mayor. He has also served as President of North Branford’s Chamber of Commerce, is Past-President of the North Branford Rotary Club, and is active in youth sports.

Aide: Casey Larkins
casey.larkins@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8700

cthousegop.com/vin-candelora
vincent.candelora@cga.ct.gov

Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

405 Sea Hill Road
North Branford, CT 06471

Aide: Alycia Marcolini
alycia.marcolini@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8700

cthousegop.com/devin-carney
devin.carney@cga.ct.gov

facebook.com/repcarney

Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

18 Cottage Pl
Old Saybrook 06475



Devin Carney (R)
House District 23
Representing Old Saybrook and Westbrook

Representative Carney is serving his first term as representative. A graduate of the Old Saybrook Public School system and Brandeis University, Carney worked part-time jobs at local small businesses. He later started his own small business in voiceover production and as a Realtor with Coldwell Banker. He is a Lector at Grace Episcopal Church, a member of ASPCA, and is an active member of both the Old Saybrook and Lyme/Old Lyme Chambers of Commerce.



Christie Carpino (R)
House District 32
Representing Cromwell and Portland

Representative Carpino is serving her third term in the House of Representatives. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a law degree from Northeastern University, she is a trial attorney who advocates on behalf of her clients at all stages of the litigation process. Christie also volunteers regularly with the Legal Services School Expulsion Project and has done so since 2007, assisting low-income families who face the complex and emotional world of school expulsions.

Aide: Nancy Jalbert
nancy.jalbert@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8700

cthousegop.com/christie-carpino
christie.carpino@cga.ct.gov

Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

29 Sovereign Ridge
Cromwell, CT 06416

Aide:David Seifel
david.seifel@cga.ct.gov
860 240 0475

senatedems.ct.gov/Doyle.php
Doyle@senatedems.ct.gov

Legislative Office Building
Room 3900
Hartford, CT 06106

38 Thornbush Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109



Paul Doyle (D)
Senate District 9
Representing Cromwell and Middletown

Senator Paul Doyle was elected to his first term as the state senator from the 9th Senatorial District in November 2006. For 12 years prior to his Senate service, Senator Doyle served in the state House of Representatives from the 28th Assembly District. He currently is a partner in the law firm of Heneghan, Kennedy & Doyle LLC in Rocky Hill.



Len Fasano (R)
Senate District 34
Representing Durham

Senator Fasano has served in the Senate since 2008. A graduate of Yale and Quinnipiac Law School, he practices law as President and Founder of Fasano, Ippolito, and Lee LCC in New Haven. He helped establish the East Haven Land Trust and has been active in pursuing open space acquisitions and in protecting Long Island Sound.

Aide: Tara Frilling
tara.frilling@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8824

ctsenaterepublicans.com/home-fasano
len.fasano@cga.ct.gov

facebook.com/senatorfasano
twitter.com/senatorfasano

Legislative Office Building
Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106

7 Sycamore Lane
North Haven, CT 06473

Aide: Kimberly King
kimberly.king@cga.ct.gov
800 842 1421

ctsenaterepublicans.com/home-formica/
paul.formica@cga.ct.gov

Legislative Office Building
Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106

20A Bush Hill Dr
Niantic, CT 06357



Paul Formica (R)
Senate District 20
Representing Old Saybrook

Senator Formica has been the owner and operator of Flanders Fish Market & Restaurant for 31 years. He has served as the First Selectman of East Lyme . Senator Formica also served as a member of the zoning commission, the Board of Finance and as Chairman of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments. A resident of East Lyme, he is a widower and the father of four adult children — three daughters and one son.



Aide: Aurora D' Angona
aurora.dangona@cga.ct.gov
860 240 0455

senatedems.ct.gov/Kennedy.php
ted.kennedy@cga.ct.gov

facebook.com/tedkennedyjr

Legislative Office Building
Room 3200
Hartford, CT 06106

Ted Kennedy Jr. (D)
Senate District 12
Representing Durham and Killingworth

PO Box 212
Branford, CT 06405

Senator Ted Kennedy Jr. has lived in Branford for more than 15 years with his wife and two children. He attended Wesleyan University, Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and University of Connecticut School of Law. He founded the Marwood Group, a leading healthcare- focused strategic advisory and financial services firm. In 2014, he joined Epstein Becker & Green as a partner in Health Care and Life Sciences Practice. He serves on the board of Special Olympics International, American Association of People with Disabilities, and Connecticut's Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities.

Aide: Joe Falvey
joe.falvey@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8700

cthousegop.com/noreen-kokoruda
noreen.kokoruda@cga.ct.gov

Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

85 Liberty Street
Madison, CT 06443



Noreen Kokoruda (R)
House District 101
Representing Durham

Representative Kokoruda won a special election in Feb. 2011, and is in her third term. As Executive Director of the Shoreline Foundation, she worked for many years to provide safe and fun summer camps for local kids. Rep. Kokoruda served 13 years on the Madison Board of Selectmen, and as Chairman of Madison's Beach and Recreation Commission for almost 10 years.

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Matthew Lesser (D)
House District 100
Representing Middletown

First elected in 2008 as the youngest member of the House, Representative Lesser is currently serving his fourth term. Educated at Wesleyan University, he is CT State Director of People for the American Way’s Young Elected Officials Network. He serves on the Coalition on Housing and Homelessness Leadership Council and on the boards of Oddfellows Playhouse and the Middlesex County Substance Abuse Action Council.

Aide: Sara LeMaster
sara.lemaster@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8569

housedems.ct.gov/Lesser
Matthew.Lesser@cga.ct.gov

facebook.com/MattLesserCT
twitter.com/mattlesser

Legislative Office Building
Room 4032
Hartford, CT 06106

1160 South Main Street, Apt 110
Middletown, CT 06457

Aide: Debra Adams
debra.adams@cga.ct.gov
860 242 1421

ctsenaterepublicans.com/home-linares
art.linares@cga.ct.gov

facebook.com/senatorlinares
twitter.com/senatorlinares

Legislative Office Building
Room 3400
Hartford, CT 06106

PO Box 122
Westbrook, CT 06498



Art Linares (R)
Senate District 33
Representing Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, Essex, Haddam, Old Saybrook, Portland, and Westbrook

Senator Linares, the youngest member of the legislature, is in his first term. From a Cuban-American family, Sen. Linares attended Westbrook public schools and graduated from the Sykes College of Business at the University of Tampa in Florida, where he majored in entrepreneurship, developing his own company as he earned a college degree. He is co-founder of Greenskies, a successful, Middletown-based, commercial solar energy company.

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Jesse MacLachlan (R)
House District 35
Representing Clinton, Killingworth, and Westbrook

Representative MacLachlan is serving his first term. A graduate of Westbrook High School and Gordon College, he works for his family business, Biblio Tech Inc., which specializes in the preservation and relocation of corporate, academic and institutional libraries. Representative MacLachlan volunteers at Valley Shore Assembly of God Church Sunday School, where he mentors young people.

Aide: Maureen Urso
maureen.urso@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8700

cthousegop.com/jesse-maclachlan/
jesse.maclachlan@cga.ct.gov

facebook.com/repjessemac

Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

5 Whittemore Pl
Westbrook, CT 06498

Aide: Wade Packer
wade.packer@cga.ct.gov
860 240 0553

housedems.ct.gov/MillerPJ
Philip.Miller@cga.ct.gov

Legislative Office Building
Room 4011
Hartford, CT 06106

24 Bushy Hill Road
Ivoryton, CT 06442



Philip Miller (D)
House District 36
Representing Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Haddam

Representative Miller is in his second term after being elected in 2011 in a special election. Rep. Miller served as First Selectman of Essex from 2003 to 2011. Previously Rep. Miller was Director of the Bushy Hill Nature Center in Ivoryton, where he founded and developed a natural history day camp. He is a former chair of the Middlesex County Revitalization Commission. He is self-employed as a naturalist and writer.

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Joseph Serra (D)
House District 33
Representing Middletown

Representative Serra was elected to represent the 33rd District in the General Assembly in 1992. A lifelong Middletown resident, Rep. Serra has served on the Middletown Democratic Town Committee since 1984. He is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Connecticut Association of Street and Highway Officials (CASHO), a position he has held for the past 33 years. Rep. Serra is a member of the Board of Directors for the Middlesex Community College Foundation.

Aide: Dawn Niles
dawn.niles@cga.ct.gov
860 240 0082

housedems.ct.gov/Serra
Joseph.Serra@cga.ct.gov

Legislative Office Building
Room 4021
Hartford, CT 06106

P.O. Box 233
Middletown, CT 06457

Aide: Ed Schaeffer
edward.schaeffer@cga.ct.gov
860 240 8700

cthousegop.com/melissa-ziobron
Melissa.Ziobron@housegop.ct.gov

facebook.com/cthouse34
twitter.com/MelissaZiobron

Legislative Office Building
Room 4200
Hartford, CT 06106

181 Petticoat Lane
East Haddam, CT 06423



Melissa Ziobron (R)
House District 34
Representing East Haddam and East Hampton

Representative Ziobron is serving her second term. A lifelong resident of the reconfigured 34th district, Rep. Ziobron has been an active member of the East Haddam Board of Education, and has served on the Middlesex Chamber Revitalization Committee and the Midstate Regional Planning Agency. Most recently she was the first Economic Development Coordinator for the town of East Haddam. She is an avid environmentalist and volunteers throughout her community.

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