

FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

Connecticut's income and wealth divides are greater than ever. We know that kids can't thrive unless families do, which is why we are focused on the family economic security issues that matter the most to Connecticut residents right now.

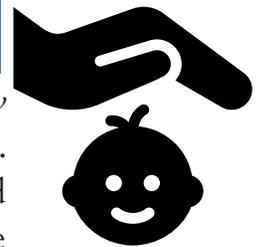


SAFE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING

CT's housing policies are separate and unequal, and quality affordable housing in the state is sparse and still too expensive—50% of renters spend more than 30% of their income on housing, and many young families can't afford to buy a home. We're advocating for housing and land-use reforms so that all families have an affordable place to live in safe neighborhoods and equitable opportunities.

CT has the 5th most expensive child care in the nation. While the long-term goal is national universal child care, we are fighting for universal access in CT *now* because all children deserve a solid foundation from which to learn. Providing care for our children also helps parents, especially women and families of color, by allowing them to fully participate in the workforce and supporting an industry that's largely occupied by women.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE



CRIMINAL JUSTICE



CT's criminal legal system is unjust. Children as young as 10 years old are detained, and the policing of our hallways contributes to a harmful and unnecessary school-to-prison pipeline. Working with partner stakeholders to protect our young people, we're advocating for a reduction of the over-reliance on SROs, increased education on the rights of students and parents, increased transparency on data and MOUs between school districts and police departments, and the provision of youth-appropriate trainings to police.

In addition to the above actions, mental health supports are critical to helping keep young

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS FOR YOUTH



people in schools, engaged in the classroom, and primed for learning and positive growth, all of which are especially needed now. We're advocating for an increase in school-based mental health professionals. Currently, the ideal student-to-school counselor ratio should be 250:1 (CT's is 392:1), the student-to-social worker ratio should be 250:1 (CT's is 580:1), and the student-to-psychologist ratio should be 500:1 (CT's is 548:1).

TAX REFORM

With working- and middle-class residents paying a higher percentage of their income in taxes than the wealthiest in the state, Connecticut's regressive tax system worsens economic and racial injustice. We're focused on tax reform because a fair tax system is good for families and good for the economy.

TAX TRANSPARENCY & TIMELY SUPPORT

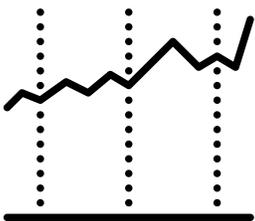


We must be more transparent about the "tax gaps" among CT's tax filers and we should provide simple tax incidence estimates for key legislation on a regular basis. CT should also inflation index the income tax exemption, income tax brackets, and income tax personal credit. We're also advocating for the option of receiving refundable tax credits in monthly payments, which will help residents make ends meet year-round.

While the Legislature enacted language that directs the governor's administration to

CT CHILD TAX CREDIT

develop a plan for a state child tax credit (CT CTC) should the federal expansion end, it's imperative that we not wait for OPM. We've seen the impact the federal CTC has on reducing child poverty and buoying middle-class families during this economic hardship. With a declining birthrate, the time to enact a state CTC that reduces the tax burden on Connecticut families by up to \$1,800 per year is *now!*



REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY THROUGH TAXES

To pay for long-overdue tax relief for working- and middle-class families and raise necessary revenue, CT must increase the income tax rate on single filers making more than \$500,000 and married filers making more than \$1 million. The state should also do more to pay down the state's debt by adding a new top tax rate that applies only to even wealthier families.

CT's special education (SPED) funding isn't tied to the number of SPED designated students; it's

EQUITABLE SPED FUNDING

tied to overall student enrollment, which is unfortunately decreasing while SPED enrollment is increasing. Correcting this and redistributing state funds through a weighted formula would better support students with special needs as well as free municipal resources that could then be used to reduce local taxes for working- and middle-class families.

