

## **Economic Development**

I will advocate for targeted tax incentives that empower entrepreneurs, ensuring that our local businesses are not overshadowed by corporate enterprises but are instead given the space to grow and prosper. Access to capital must no longer be the privilege of a few; I will push for expanded small business loan programs and grants, particularly for startups and minority-owned enterprises.

But economic growth is not sustained by policy alone—it is driven by the skills of our people. I will champion workforce development initiatives that equip our citizens with the training required to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving economy. Our education system must be aligned with the industries of the future, forging partnerships between schools, vocational programs, and businesses to ensure that our workforce is prepared, capable, and competitive.

Above all, I will stand for an economic policy rooted in fairness and opportunity—where no town is left behind, where prosperity is not a privilege but a shared destiny, and where the spirit of enterprise is not hindered but unleashed to its full potential.

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

Addressing traffic congestion, improving public transportation, and investing in infrastructure across the district requires bold, data-driven solutions that put mobility, safety, and sustainability at the forefront.

First, we need smarter streets. I will push for investments in modern traffic management systems that reduce congestion through adaptive signal technology and real-time traffic monitoring. We can ease bottlenecks by redesigning high-traffic corridors, optimizing intersections, and ensuring road improvements prioritize efficiency and safety for all users—drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

I will fight for a long-term infrastructure plan that prioritizes not just repairs, but resilience—fixing what’s broken while designing for the future. Complete Streets policies should guide our development, ensuring that investments in roads also include safer pedestrian crossings, protected bike lanes, and accessibility improvements.

It’s time to stop treating transportation as an afterthought and start building a district that moves people—not just cars—efficiently, equitably, and sustainably.

## **Education & Funding**

Ensuring that our schools receive the resources they need and that students have access to high-quality education is not just a policy issue—it is a moral imperative and an investment in our collective future. As a proud Stratford Public Schools graduate, class of 2015, I know what students and teachers need to succeed and I'm committed to fighting for them in Hartford.

First, we must advocate for the fair distribution of state education funds, ensuring that no district is left behind due to systemic inequities. I will work tirelessly to secure increased funding for schools, with an emphasis on addressing the disparities that exist between wealthier and underfunded districts. This includes advocating for policies that target resource allocation where it is most needed—whether that's increasing access to advanced coursework, enhancing special education services, or expanding extracurricular opportunities that support students' holistic development.

In addition, I will champion the need for innovative educational programs that prepare students for the complexities of the modern world. This means supporting initiatives in STEM education, digital literacy, and vocational training, as well as enhancing partnerships between schools, businesses, and higher education institutions. We must equip students not just with knowledge, but with the skills, critical thinking, and adaptability required to thrive in a rapidly changing global economy.

## **Housing & Cost of Living**

The challenges of housing affordability and the high cost of living are not merely economic issues—they are a matter of human dignity and opportunity.

First, I will advocate for expanding the supply of affordable housing through a combination of state incentives and private-sector partnerships. By offering tax incentives and low-interest loans for the development of affordable housing, we can encourage builders to meet the growing demand without sacrificing quality or community integrity. At the same time, I will work to streamline the permitting process, eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic barriers that delay housing construction and inflate costs.

I will also push for property tax relief for working families and seniors on fixed incomes, ensuring that residents are not priced out of the communities that they built due to rising tax burdens.

At the core of all these efforts is the belief that everyone deserves the chance to live in a safe, stable, and affordable home. Housing is the foundation of opportunity and the cornerstone of a thriving community. I am committed to ensuring that Connecticut residents have access to that foundation, no matter their income level.

## **Public Safety & Community Well-being**

First and foremost, we must strengthen community policing efforts. It is essential to build trust and mutual respect between law enforcement and the community. Community policing is not just a strategy—it's a philosophy that emphasizes collaboration, transparency, and accountability. I will support policies that encourage officers to engage with residents, understand their concerns, and be seen as partners in the fight against crime. I'll also push for workforce training programs for police, so that kids from our district are equipped to join departments in their communities. By ensuring law enforcement agencies reflect the diverse communities they serve, we create an environment where everyone feels heard, respected, and safe. In addition to community policing, we must address crime prevention through targeted initiatives that focus on the root causes of criminal behavior—lack of opportunity, systemic inequities, and inadequate social services. I will advocate for more investment in programs that provide mental health support, job training, and educational opportunities to at-risk youth and families. By preventing crime before it starts, we create safer communities where individuals have pathways to success rather than a life of involvement with the criminal justice system.

## **Environmental & Coastal Protection**

First, we must prioritize comprehensive flood mitigation and coastal resilience strategies. This includes securing federal and state funding for the construction and enhancement of flood barriers, seawalls, and natural buffers, such as wetlands, that help absorb the impacts of rising sea levels and storm surges. In Stratford, we had an opportunity to be proactive in this area. Back in 2013, the Town of Stratford produced a coastal resiliency plan – but it sat idle for 11 years. In my first year on the Council, we

made a conscious decision to prioritize coastal resilience, and we approved \$16.7M for a flood wall to protect our sewage treatment plant from powerful storms and rising sea levels.

On a state level, I took my passion for our coastal resiliency when I was appointed to the Connecticut Environmental Justice Advisory Council. There, I advocate for policies and initiatives that promote environmental justice, enhance public health, and ensure that all Connecticut residents can enjoy clean air, water, and land.

In the Senate, I will advocate for expanding programs that provide communities with the tools and resources necessary to protect their infrastructure from the destructive forces of flooding and erosion. We must also invest in the restoration of our coastal ecosystems like wetlands, dunes, and other critical habitats, so we can enhance the natural resilience of our coastline while safeguarding biodiversity.

In the fight against climate change, I will support legislation that encourages renewable energy development, energy efficiency, and green infrastructure. By promoting clean energy solutions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels, we'll address the root causes of climate change and also create new economic opportunities for our coastal district. These efforts will help protect the long-term health of our environment and create jobs that are sustainable and resilient in the face of future challenges.