

Connecticut: A Guide to State Government

This guide presents an overview of Connecticut state government for students, teachers, and other interested citizens. The guide

- ✦ highlights the history of our state constitution.
- ✦ illustrates the interrelationship among the three branches of state government.
- ✦ lists the key powers and duties of the General Assembly, the Governor, other executive branch officials, and the courts.
- ✦ summarizes the relationship between state and local governments.

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Connecticut: The Constitution State



The Connecticut Constitution establishes the foundation of our state government. This vital document expresses the ideals and aspirations of Connecticut's citizens and embodies the principles under which the state operates. The constitution establishes the structure of government, specifies its obligations, and limits its powers.

Throughout Connecticut's history, a series of documents, from the Fundamental Orders of 1639 to the current constitution adopted in 1965, have defined the character of government in Connecticut during its evolution from colony to modern state.

Direct Democracy. . . A New Beginning

In search of more fertile land and greater political and religious freedom, English settlers left the Massachusetts Bay Colony in the 1630s and established three settlements—Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford—along the banks of the Connecticut River. These Puritan (Congregationalist) settlements formed the core of the Connecticut Colony.

In 1638, Reverend Thomas Hooker, chief founder of Hartford, preached a powerful sermon urging settlers to take a more active role in governing themselves than they had in the Bay Colony. He boldly proclaimed that the authority to govern lies "firstly, in the free consent of the people.... As God has given us liberty, let us take it."

Inspired by Hooker's vision, the Connecticut Colony adopted the Fundamental Orders of 1639. This document stands as the first known written constitution embodying the principle of self-government, recognizing the right of the people both to vote directly for their officials and to limit the powers of those officials.



However, at that time, *the people* did not refer to everyone. Only “Godly adult males who owned property” could vote. Nevertheless, the adoption of the Fundamental Orders of 1639 marked the beginning of representative government in Connecticut and embodied the spirit of constitutionalism so basic to American democracy.

Because of this unique early history, Connecticut became known as *The Constitution State*.

Individual Rights, Equal Protection

The Fundamental Orders of 1639 made no mention of individual rights. To remedy this omission, Roger Ludlow, a lawyer and member of the early legislature, drew up the Declaration of Rights proclaiming the importance of individual liberties and equal protection under the law. This important statement stood, with only modest changes, until 1818.

Preserving Self-Government

When King Charles II reclaimed the English throne for the monarchy in 1660, leaders of the Connecticut Colony feared he would demand greater control over their affairs.

Governor John Winthrop, Jr., was sent to England to petition the King for recognition of the provisions of the Fundamental Orders. In 1662, he successfully obtained a special charter guaranteeing Connecticut’s relative independence and freedom. With a brief exception, The Royal Charter of 1662 remained the law of the colony and state into the nineteenth century.



Government by the People

A campaign for constitutional reform began around 1800. Many citizens believed that the Royal Charter was inadequate to serve as the state's constitution because the people had never ratified the document and the legislature could alter it at will.

Citizens had come to distrust the concentration of power in the legislature and, inspired by the new federal constitution, believed that a system of checks and balances should exist among those who make the laws, those who execute the laws, and those who interpret the laws.

After much political debate, voters ratified a new document, the Constitution of 1818, drawn up by a special convention. The document elevated the Declaration of Rights to constitutional status and separated the government into legislative, executive, and judicial branches, each with its own defined powers. It also ended the special status of the Congregational Church as the state's established religion by asserting that "no preference shall be given, by law, to any Christian sect or mode of worship."

The Constitution of 1818 also assured the right to vote to more white male citizens.

Eventually in 1870, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted black males voting rights throughout the country. However, it was not until 1920 that women finally won the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment.



Equal Representation, Equal Rights

The Constitution of 1818 and its amendments remained the fundamental law of the state for nearly 150 years, despite the many changes which affected the character of Connecticut and the needs of its citizens.

Under the provisions of the Constitution of 1818, voters in each town or city, no matter the size of its population, could elect no more than two representatives to the House of Representatives. As cities expanded, this system of representation became increasingly undemocratic. Voters in rural areas and small towns exercised legislative power vastly disproportionate to the power of their urban counterparts—by 1960, less than 12% of the state's population could effectively elect a majority in the House. The state Senate was also malapportioned, but less dramatically.

Connecticut was forced to modernize its constitution after a 1964 U.S. Supreme Court decision declared that the equal protection clause in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution required that seats in both houses of a state legislature be apportioned on a population basis, that is, "one man, one vote."

In 1965, voters ratified a new document that emerged from a constitutional convention. Major revisions in The Constitution of 1965 included legislative representation proportionate to population; provision for reapportionment every ten years following each federal census; the strengthening of the veto power of the Governor; and an equal protection clause to the Declaration of Rights. This additional clause prohibited discrimination or segregation because of religion, race, color, ancestry, or national origin. Subsequent amendments prohibited discrimination on the basis of gender as well as mental and physical disabilities.

The Constitution of 1965, with amendments, remains the fundamental law of Connecticut.



THE THREE BRANCHES OF CONNECTICUT'S STATE GOVERNMENT



The Legislative Branch

The General Assembly

Legislatures help to organize society and to resolve

conflicts by enacting laws for the common good. Through laws, legislatures authorize the collection and allocation of

funds, regulate the activities of citizens and organizations, and integrate public demands with public policy. In Connecticut, members of the General Assembly must be at least eighteen years old and reside in the district they represent. Elected in November of even-numbered years, Senate and House members serve two-year terms. They may not hold elective or appointed office concurrently in any other branch or unit of state government.



Regular sessions of the General Assembly are held from January to June in odd-numbered years, and from February to May in even-numbered years. The state constitution restricts the shorter, even-year sessions to consideration of budgetary, revenue, and financial issues, bills and resolutions raised by committees of the General Assembly, and emergency matters.

The Governor may call special sessions in case of emergency. Also, a majority of the members of either chamber of the General Assembly may petition for a special session.

A post-adjournment, or *trailer*, session is required to reconsider any bills vetoed by the Governor and not acted upon again by the legislature before the close of a previous regular or special session.



The Senate

Connecticut's Senate has 36 members, each elected from a separate senatorial district of substantially equal population. The state constitution permits the size of the Senate to vary from 30 to 50 members. The Senate

- ✧ determines its own rules and procedures.
- ✧ is presided over by the Lieutenant Governor, who is President of the Senate. The Lieutenant Governor may cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.
- ✧ elects a President *Pro Tempore* (temporary president) who presides in the absence of the President and serves as a party spokesperson. The President *Pro Tempore* appoints the Senate chairs of joint committees and Senate committee members.
- ✧ has a Majority Leader and a Minority Leader who also serve as party spokespersons. Elected by members of their own party, these leaders direct party affairs, assemble members for important votes, and serve as *ex officio* members of all committees.
- ✧ tries all impeachments of executive and judicial branch officials

The House of Representatives

The House of Representatives has 151 members, each elected from a separate assembly district of substantially equal population. The state constitution permits the size of the House to vary from 125 to 225 members. The House

- ✧ determines its own rules and procedures.
- ✧ is presided over by a Speaker of the House, elected by the members. The Speaker is a party spokesperson and appoints the House chairs of joint committees and House committee members. The Speaker also may refer bills to appropriate committees.
- ✧ has a Majority Leader and a Minority Leader, who also serve as party spokespersons. Elected by members of their own party, they direct party affairs, assemble members for votes, and serve as *ex officio* members of all committees.
- ✧ has the power to impeach executive and judicial branch officials.



Powers of the General Assembly

Together, the House of Representatives and the Senate constitute the General Assembly. The General Assembly

- ✦ establishes joint committees, which include both House and Senate members, to review proposed legislation.
- ✦ adopts joint rules for conducting committee and other legislative business.
- ✦ enacts legislation dealing with state appropriations and finance, public welfare, the environment, public works, housing, education, civil and criminal laws, and other matters.
- ✦ levies state taxes.
- ✦ establishes administrative departments, agencies, boards and commissions; defines their functions; and funds their operations.
- ✦ may independently investigate operations of any administrative agency for irregularities and/or inefficiencies.
- ✦ may establish lower courts.
- ✦ redistricts the state every ten years, following each national census.
- ✦ may override the Governor's veto by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house.
- ✦ may call a special session at the request of a majority of the members of each house.
- ✦ may introduce amendments to the state constitution.
- ✦ may call for a constitutional convention, by a two-thirds vote of the members of each house.



How the General Assembly Does Its Work

The General Assembly meets in the State Capitol in Hartford. General Assembly committees meet and hold most public hearings in the adjoining Legislative Office Building, which houses members' offices.

Connecticut's legislature is one of the few that traditionally operate with a system of joint House and Senate committees.

Committees, which may operate on a year-round basis, meet to review proposed legislation and make recommendations to the full House and Senate. The joint committee system minimizes duplication of effort, saving both time and expense. It also spares the public from having to appear at separate House and Senate public hearings on the same legislation.

In most cases, committee members represent each political party in relative proportion to its number in each house. Two committee chairs are appointed from the majority party, one by the President *Pro Tempore* of the Senate and one by the Speaker of the House.

There are currently more than twenty-five joint standing committees that focus on particular legislative issues. Most senators and representatives serve on several committees.

Some committees use subcommittees to handle the volume and complexity of the work that comes before them. Professional and technical support is available to legislators through the Joint Committee on Legislative Management, which supervises various non-partisan offices and commissions staffed by experts.



Legislative Definitions

BILLS are legislative proposals that seek to enact a new law or change an existing law.

RESOLUTIONS are legislative proposals that deal with internal matters of the legislature. They are also used for confirmation of executive and judicial branch appointees and to propose constitutional amendments. Resolutions do not affect state statutes (laws), and do not require the Governor's signature.

ACTS are pieces of legislation that pass both houses of the General Assembly and are sent to the Governor for approval.

There are two types of acts: **Public Acts**, or legislation of general application, and **Special Acts**, legislation of limited application or limited duration.

LAWS are acts that the Governor signs or does not veto within a set time (five days during a legislative session, or fifteen days after adjournment), or that are re-passed by the General Assembly over the Governor's veto.

STATE STATUTES are the laws of Connecticut.

The official, multi-volume *General Statutes of Connecticut* is published biennially by the state and is supplemented annually by the official *Public and Special Acts*. Public Acts that become law are incorporated into the *General Statutes*. Special Acts, with rare exception, are not. The public may research laws, public acts, and special acts on the General Assembly's Web site, www.cga.ct.gov.

West Publishing Company also publishes the *Connecticut General Statutes Annotated*, an authoritative, but unofficial, edition of the general statutes. Updated annually, it includes cases and administrative rulings that interpret the statutes. West also publishes *Legislative Updates* periodically throughout each session, giving the full text of all new Public Acts, without annotations.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

The process of law-making begins with an idea. Any member of the General Assembly may decide that an idea—whether the legislator’s own, or that of a constituent, interest group, administrative agency, or the Governor—would benefit the people of the state and should be enacted into law. A proposed “bill” is written for this purpose and introduced into the General Assembly by one or more members, who act as its sponsor(s). The bill then wends its way through the legislative process:

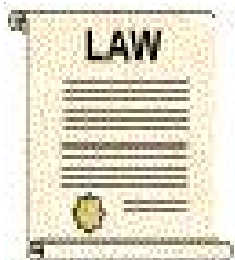
- ⊛ **Members of the General Assembly may file proposed bills and resolutions before—and for a limited time after—the opening of a legislative session.**
- ⊛ **Each bill is “read” in the chamber in which it originates and is then sent on to the appropriate joint committee for study and debate.**
- ⊛ **The committee reviews a proposed bill and decides whether to take no action (thereby effectively letting the bill die); have it drafted in legal form by the Legislative Commissioners’ Office as a committee bill; or incorporate it with other proposals into another committee bill. The committee may also decide to raise an original bill. Committee and raised bills are given a public hearing.**
- ⊛ **After the public hearing, the committee usually acts on the bill, either rejecting it or sending it on for further consideration to another committee or to the full House or Senate. If the committee takes no action on the bill, the effect is the same as rejection.**
- ⊛ **The House or Senate may also refer the bill to additional committees for consideration. Bills favorably reported out of a committee frequently must receive favorable reports from one or more additional committees before either chamber is ready to vote on it. For example, bills requiring expenditures of state funds or bond provisions will be referred to the Appropriations Committee or to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.**



- ✦ A favorably reported bill is checked for accuracy, constitutionality, and consistency with other laws by the Legislative Commissioners' Office. The Office of Fiscal Analysis analyzes the bill's cost or revenue gain and its impact on municipalities. The Office of Legislative Research prepares a plain-language summary of the bill.
- ✦ When ready, the bill returns to the chamber in which it originated for debate. There, it may also be amended. A "yes" vote by a simple majority—more than half the members present and voting—sends the bill to the other chamber, where it is also debated and may be amended. If any bill is passed in the second chamber with different amendments, it must then be returned to the first chamber for passage. If the two chambers cannot agree on the wording of the bill, it goes to a conference committee for compromise. If the conference committee reaches agreement, each chamber votes on the new version of the bill. If agreement is not reached, the bill dies.
- ✦ If the bill has passed both chambers in identical form, it is sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign the bill, veto the bill, or take no action.



- ✦ The bill becomes a law if the Governor signs it or takes no action within a specific period of time. A bill may also become law if, after the Governor's veto, each chamber passes the identical bill again by at least a two-thirds vote of its total membership.



The Executive Branch

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor

The Governor of Connecticut is the most visible and powerful governmental leader of the state. The Governor sets the political agenda and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of government.

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor must be at least thirty years old and electors of the state. They are elected as a team in November of even-numbered, non-presidential election years, and serve a four-year term.

The Governor's office is in the State Capitol in Hartford. Assisting the Governor is a diverse staff of executive, administrative, legislative, and legal aides. The Governor also has a military staff and a Cabinet made up of the commissioners of major state agencies.

The Constitution provides for a line of succession in case the Governor is unable to serve for any reason. It also provides for impeachment of the Governor as well as of other executive branch officials.

Powers and Duties of the Governor

The Governor as Chief Executive

The primary function of the Governor as chief executive and administrative officer is to ensure that the laws of the state are faithfully administered.

The Governor oversees the executive branch departments, agencies, boards, and commissions that are established and funded by the General Assembly to carry out the business of the state and to provide a wide variety of public services. Current examples of major departments are: Administrative Services, Education, Environmental Protection, Motor Vehicles, and Transportation.



To manage and direct the work of the state government, the Governor appoints—and may remove—the commissioners of nearly all administrative departments and numerous agencies, boards, and commissions. In most cases, one or both houses of the General Assembly must confirm gubernatorial appointments. Terms generally coincide with that of the Governor.

As chief executive, the Governor presents an annual *State of the State* message before the General Assembly outlining the primary issues facing the state and proposing general fiscal and program priorities for the legislative session.

The Governor also prepares and submits the state budget based on gubernatorial priorities and the requests of administrative agencies. The Office of Policy and Management aids the Governor in budget development and implementation as well as in program analysis, planning, and intergovernmental relations. While the Governor initiates the budget process, the General Assembly must approve the actual appropriation of monies as well as the means of raising the revenues—through taxes and bonding—needed to support state spending.

The Governor is further responsible for nominating judicial branch officials, who must be confirmed by the legislature. The Governor also has limited powers to grant reprieves after convictions in all cases except impeachment.



Governor Winthrop obtained the Royal Charter in 1662. More than 100 years later, Governor Trumbull led Connecticut in support of American independence.



The Governor's Role in the Legislative Process

The Governor may propose legislation based on gubernatorial program priorities. These priorities may emerge from needs identified by state agencies, specially appointed *blue ribbon* panels, or citizen groups.

The Governor often works closely with the General Assembly to promote legislative goals but has no constitutional role in the law-making process until after a bill has been passed by the legislature. The Governor may then sign the bill, veto it, or take no action, allowing it to become law after a period of time.

The Governor's principal legislative power lies in the use of the veto, including a line-item veto in budget appropriations. The legislature may override a veto by a 2/3 vote of the members of each chamber. The Governor may call a special session of the General Assembly in an emergency.

The Governor as Chief of State

The Governor performs a symbolic role as ceremonial chief of state—representing the entire citizenry of Connecticut at official functions, civic and social affairs, and regional or national conferences.

As chief of state the Governor also commands the National Guard—the state militia—except when the President of the United States calls it into national service.

Powers and Duties of the Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor is President and presiding officer of the Senate and may cast the deciding vote in case of a tie.

The Lieutenant Governor frequently shares in the ceremonial functions of the Governor, assumes various responsibilities that the Governor may assign, and, in the Governor's absence from the state, performs all gubernatorial duties.

In case of the Governor's death, resignation, refusal to serve, or removal from office, the Lieutenant Governor assumes the office of Governor.



Other Executive Branch Officials

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor share executive power with four other officials, also elected for four-year terms in gubernatorial election years. The state constitution and state statutes establish the duties of their offices.

The Secretary of the State

- ★ is the official keeper of public records, documents, and the State Seal.
- ★ is the Commissioner of Elections; administers and interprets all state and local election and primary laws.
- ★ receives and files legislative and executive action on bills before the General Assembly.
- ★ publishes the annual *Connecticut State Register and Manual* (the *Blue Book*) and distributes the Connecticut General Statutes and other publications.
- ★ files and maintains certificates of corporations, other businesses, and various organizations.



Colonel George Fenwick brought Connecticut's first seal from England in 1639. It was the seal of the Saybrook Colony and was turned over to the Connecticut Colony in 1644. The General Court, or General Assembly, used various versions of the seal from that time forward. After the Revolutionary War the Latin inscription around the Colonial seal was changed to read, "Seal of the State of Connecticut." The origin of the motto within the seal—He Who Transplanted Still Sustains—is uncertain.

Source: *Connecticut State Register and Manual*, Secretary of the State



The Treasurer

- ★ receives, invests, and disburses state monies in accordance with the law.
- ★ administers the state bond and debt-financing program.
- ★ manages pension, retirement, and trust fund assets for state employees, some municipal employees, and teachers.

The Comptroller

- ★ adjusts and settles all public accounts and demands against the state not otherwise handled by the General Assembly, i.e., pays most of the state's bills in concert with the Treasurer.
- ★ prepares all accounting statements relating to the financial condition of the state and monitors accounting procedures of state agencies.
- ★ oversees health care and other insurance benefits for state employees and retirees.
- ★ is the agent of the State Employee Retirement Commission and administers all state pension plans except the Teachers Retirement System.

The Attorney General

- ★ is the chief civil legal officer of the state and may bring suit on behalf of the state.
- ★ supervises all civil legal affairs of the state and represents state officials and agencies in the courts.
- ★ may investigate charges of graft and corruption within state government.
- ★ informs citizens on such matters as public utility regulation and consumer protection.
- ★ may take legal action in the public interest in areas such as consumer, child, and environmental protection.



The Judicial Branch

The judicial branch of government is the branch created to resolve disputes, administer justice, assure due process, and interpret the Constitution and the laws of the state.

The Connecticut court system consists of the Supreme Court, the Appellate Court, the Superior Court, and the Probate Court.

Justices of the Supreme Court and judges of the Appellate and Superior Courts are nominated by the Governor from a list of candidates approved by the Judicial Selection Commission. Nominees are appointed by the General Assembly. They may serve for renewable, eight-year terms with mandatory retirement at age seventy. They may be removed by impeachment and limited other means. The voters of Connecticut elect probate judges.

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the highest court of appeals in Connecticut—the court of last resort within the state. It consists of a Chief Justice and six Associate Justices. The Chief Justice appoints a Chief Court Administrator to oversee the administrative operations of the judicial branch.

The Supreme Court

- ✧ does not hold trials.
- ✧ hears appeals of Appellate and Superior Court decisions to determine if state law was correctly and fairly applied.
- ✧ makes decisions that are final and binding on all other state courts. Further appeal may be made to the U.S. Supreme Court if a case involves a question of federal law.



The Appellate Court

The Appellate Court, consisting of nine judges, is the intermediate court of appeals in Connecticut. It was established in 1982 to alleviate the caseload burden on the state's Supreme Court. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court designates one of the judges as Chief Judge.

The Appellate Court

- ★ does not hold trials.
- ★ hears appeals of Superior Court decisions and appeals transferred from the state's Supreme Court to determine if the law was correctly and fairly applied.



The Superior Court

The Superior Court is the only trial court of general jurisdiction in Connecticut. All cases except probate matters begin here.

The Superior Court has five divisions: Family, Civil, Criminal, Housing, and Juvenile. Currently, there are 180 Superior Court judgeships.



Connecticut is divided geographically into thirteen Superior Court judicial districts to which judges are assigned on an annual basis by the Chief Court Administrator.

In the Superior Court, witnesses give testimony and, in general, juries and judges decide cases. Some matters coming before the Court are handled by

- ⊕ **Family Support Magistrates, who hear matters of child and spousal support. Nine magistrates are appointed by the Governor for renewable three-year terms.**
- ⊕ **State Trial Referees—retired judges designated by the Chief Justice—who exercise the powers of the Superior Court on certain matters referred to them.**
- ⊕ **Attorneys, appointed to act as Attorney State Trial Referees, Fact Finders, Small Claims Commissioners, Magistrates, and Arbitrators.**

The Probate Court

The Probate Court oversees the settlement of estates of deceased persons, guardianships, trusts, conservatorships, commitments, and adoptions.

There are currently 117 probate districts, each composed of one to six towns and established by the General Assembly. The voters in each district elect that district's Probate Judge for a four-year term. Retirement is mandatory at age seventy. The Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court appoints one judge of probate to serve as the Probate Court Administrator.



The Relationship Between State and Local Government

The State of Connecticut is divided into 169 municipalities. Each municipality, whether called a town or city, may operate under the state's statutes or may adopt its own local charter, as provided for in the Home Rule Act. A town charter specifies the form of government under which the municipality intends to operate. Although there are variants of each, the three basic forms of municipal government are

- ★ Selectman–Town Meeting
- ★ Mayor–Council
- ★ Manager–Council

Each of these forms may include a Board of Finance.

Whatever the structure, each municipality is a self-governing unit, unique in character, with its own responsibilities, duties, and powers.

However, a municipality may exercise only those powers that the State of Connecticut has delegated to it. The General Assembly also imposes many mandates that have a broad impact upon the powers, scope, and financial obligations of local governments. For example, when a town establishes its own services—schools, road maintenance, police and fire services—they must operate within the confines of state statutes that apply to all Connecticut municipalities.

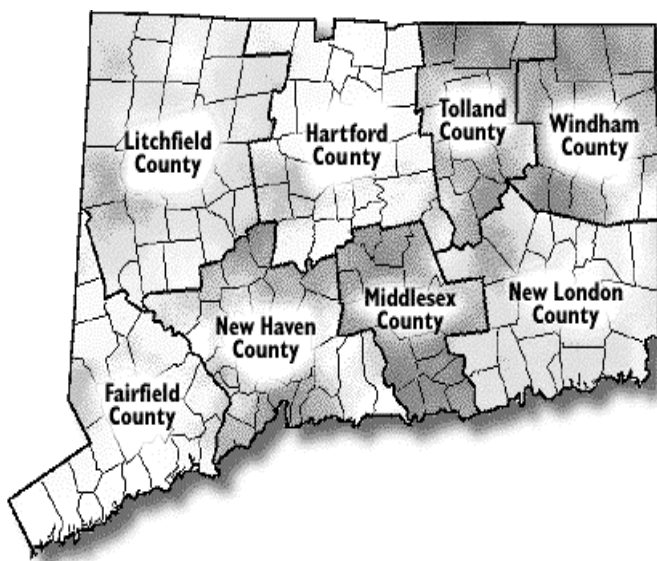
The *home rule* provision of the Constitution of 1965 prohibits the General Assembly from enacting any special legislation that would affect a single municipality except in regard to borrowing power, validating acts, and forming, consolidating, or dissolving a town, city, or borough.



Counties and Regional Cooperation

Although counties continue to exist as geographical areas for statistical and record-keeping purposes, county government in Connecticut was abolished in 1960. The state, cities, or towns now carry on all other governmental functions formerly performed by the county.

Municipalities cooperate with each other through intermunicipal agreements, regional government councils, and regional projects in public health, public safety, education, land use planning, environmental protection, transportation, and economic development.



The Counties and Towns of Connecticut



INFORMATION & RESOURCES

Capitol Information and Tours

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

www.cga.ct.gov/capitoltours

(860) 240-0222 or

capitol.tours@cga.ct.gov



Additional Resources:

350 Years of Connecticut Government: A Search for the Common Good. A Teacher's Guide. By Margaret Richards and William Marcy (Denise W. Merrill, ed.). Hartford, CT: Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizenship Education, Inc., 1991. (860) 509-6184 or ccfce@mindspring.com. For information: www.cclce.org

Connecticut Legislative Guide. Hartford, CT: Joint Committee on Legislative Management. Annual. (860) 240-0100 or www.cga.ct.gov

The Connecticut State Constitution: A Reference Guide. By Wesley W. Horton. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1993. (800) 225-5800

Connecticut State Register and Manual (the "Blue Book"). Hartford, CT: Office of the Secretary of the State. Annual. (860) 509-6000 or www.sots.ct.gov

Connecticut Town & City. New Haven, CT: Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. Bimonthly. (203) 498-3000 or www.ccm-ct.org/

Digest of Administrative Reports to the Governor. Hartford, CT: Connecticut Department of Administrative Services. Annual. (860) 713-5000 or (800) 452-3451

Directory of Connecticut's Federal and State Elected Officials. Hamden, CT: The League of Women Voters of Connecticut Education Fund, Inc. Biennial. (203) 288-7996. For information: www.lwvct.org

Local Government in Connecticut. By Frank B. Connolly. Connecticut Council of Municipalities and the University of Connecticut Institute of Public Service. Revised 2001, 2nd edition, and published by CCM. (203) 498-3000 or ccm@com-ct.org. For information: www.ccm-ct.org

This Is Your General Assembly. Hartford, CT: Joint Committee on Legislative Management, Biennial. For information: www.cga.ct.gov/olm/ or (860) 240-8400.

