



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Dear Residents, Neighbors and Friends,

Today, thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, elected officials and dedicated town staff, Simsbury is a Money Magazine *Top Ten* 'Best Places to Live in America.' Others are noticing what Simsbury residents have known for years – Simsbury is a great place to live, learn, retire and do business. Your tax dollars support all that makes Simsbury the place we call home and we work hard every day to ensure you get quality and value for every tax dollar you contribute.

Each budget season the Boards of Selectmen, Education and Finance evaluate “must spends,” “should spends,” and “want to spends.” Priorities and goals are discussed and weighed against what our residents can afford. In addition to the tough choices we make every year at budget time, this year’s budget has two additional challenges:

- A likely reduction in State aid due to the State’s continued fiscal crisis, caused in large part by their chronic underfunding of the State’s financial obligations and;
- A net loss in revenue of about \$790,000 from the demolition of The Hartford building.

Governor Malloy presented his budget to the State Legislature on February 8th and proposed an unprecedented and untenable ***\$4.3 million in additional costs for Simsbury***. We expect the budget that is ultimately passed by the State Legislature will look vastly different from this initial proposal and we will be advocating for real cost fixes from the State - *not cost shifts that increase the property tax burden on Simsbury residents.*

Over the next few months, the State Legislature will be reviewing and making changes to the Governor’s budget. Like all municipalities, we won’t know the final amount of State aid reductions to Simsbury until sometime this spring. We have reached out to Senator Witkos and Representative Hampton and will be working with them to advocate for Simsbury’s best interests. The Boards of Selectmen, Finance and Education will be working together and with the Director of Finance to evaluate strategies and options.

Regarding the loss in revenue from The Hartford, fortunately, the Town has planned for this loss for a number of years and has set aside reserves to help cushion the tax impact. The good news is that within three to five years, we expect that loss to be replaced and exceeded with revenues from newly planned development.

No doubt this will be a rocky budget season with difficult challenges. We will continue to be cautious with our spending and find cost savings wherever we can. As we make hard choices and set priorities for the Town, we encourage all to be involved in the process. Give us your input and let us know what is important to you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Heavner
First Selectwoman

Robert Pomeroy
Chairman
Board of Finance

Matthew Curtis
Superintendent
Simsbury Public Schools