SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Representing 22 towns, cities, and boroughs in Southeastern Connecticut.

Draft LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
FOR THE 2026 SESSION, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- **Early Voting:** Review the rollout of Early Voting Access in 2025 and amend related statutes to improve access and address challenges experienced in 2025.
  - Reduce the number of Early Voting Days to 7 Days.
- **Unfunded Mandates:** Offset the increase in the number of unfunded mandates.
  - Request any new unfunded mandate by offset by removal of two existing mandates.
- **DEEP Solid Waste Permitting:** Increase the capacity of Connecticut's Waste-to-Energy plants to process solid waste.
  - Fast-track permitting for additional solid waste burners in Lisbon and New Britain.
- **Veterans' Property Tax Exemption Modification:** Refine the language of PA 24-46 to ensure that tax exemption benefits are granted to 100% disabled veterans as was intended by the original passage of the bill.
  - Require annual certification and income limitations for the veterans' exemption.
- **Special Education Costs:** Increase the current level of state funding for special education.
  - Adjust the Special Education cost multiplier and allow funds to follow the pupil.
- **Local Sales Tax:** Authorize municipalities to receive 1% of sales and hotel tax generated locally, or the authority to establish a local sales tax.
  - Implement a 1% local sales tax split.

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- Sales tax revenue would help offset municipal reliance on property taxes to fund local services, particularly in municipalities with a high proportion of tax-exempt properties and/or municipal costs that serve regional needs.
- A 2017 CCM report supported diversion of 1% of local sales tax to municipalities, and authorizing municipalities to establish additional sales, meals, and/or lodging taxes.

- **E-Bikes and Quad Enforcement:** Authorize municipalities to develop enforcement procedures to strictly enforce the illegal use of E-Bikes.
  - Request the authorization of municipalities to enforce illegal use of E-Bikes and Quads due to enforcement limitations under the Police Accountability Act.

SECOG Legislative Committee

Fred Allyn, Committee Chair	Mayor, Ledyard
Cheryl Blanchard	First Selectman, Sprague
Sandra Allyn-Gauthier	First Selectman, Preston
Glenn Pianka	First Selectman, Bozrah
Tina Falck	First Selectman, Griswold
Danielle Chesebrough	First Selectman, Stonington
Michael Schefers	Warden, Stonington Borough
Bob Carlson	First Selectman, North Stonington
Thomas Sparkman	First Selectman, Lisbon
Michael Passero	Mayor, New London
John Salomone	City Manager, Norwich