

Newsletter

Dear Friend,

I am writing to update you on the amount of state aid that the Massachusetts legislature has preliminarily announced for Lincoln, Sudbury, and Wayland. The numbers mirror what Governor Deval Patrick recommended in his state budget, and are therefore likely to be the final state aid figures approved for the state fiscal year that begins July 1, 2009.

Earlier this month, the State House and Senate reached an agreement on a local aid resolution that would increase state aid to towns and cities in the fiscal 2009 budget by \$233 million, a 4.4 percent increase over last year. That brings the total state aid to towns and cities to \$5.26 billion, or over 18% of the total expected state budget of about \$29 billion for FY09.

- * For Lincoln, this means a \$97,408 increase in state aid to the town, or 6% over FY08 funding.
- * For Sudbury, this means a \$284,049 increase in state aid to the town, or 5% over FY08 funding.
- * In addition, state aid for Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School would increase by 6% to \$147,629 over last year.
- * For Wayland, this means a \$321,886 increase in state aid to the town, or 8% over FY08.

Overall, this resolution means over \$850,000 in additional local aid to the three towns that I am privileged to represent. Coupled with the \$1.1 million in local aid increases last year, state aid to the towns of Lincoln, Sudbury, and Wayland have increased by 15% in the past two years.

Increasing state aid is my top priority. It's what I campaigned on. It's what our towns and citizens need in order to hold down property taxes and provide essential services. It's results such as this that I am proud to deliver to our towns.

Local aid is comprised of Chapter 70 funding for public schools, lottery aid, and additional assistance.

My Analysis of the Casino Issue

The casino issue in Massachusetts is complex and multi-faceted. I studied the issue closely because our Commonwealth needs more non-tax revenue and more jobs. These were the laudable goals of the Governor's casino proposal.

My research and analysis led to the following conclusions:

1. Net state revenue benefits of casinos in our state do not clearly exceed the costs associated with decreased lottery revenue.
2. The types of jobs that would be created at the casinos are low-skill and low-paying, with expected annual wages below \$20,000.
3. The number of problem gamblers and addicts that would likely arise with casinos would outnumber the number of

jobs created.

If you are interested in learning more or seeing the entire 20-page analysis I conducted, please contact me and I'll gladly send it to you.

Office Hours Monday April 14

I will be holding office hours during April on Monday, April 14 at the following times and locations. Please feel free to drop by and we can discuss any and all topics. No appointments are necessary.

Sudbury: Goodnow Library, 2nd Floor, 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Lincoln: Town Library, Tarbell Room, 4:00 - 4:30 pm

Wayland: Town Library, Raytheon Room, 5:00 - 5:30 pm

Of course, I welcome visitors to the State House. Given my busy schedule there, I respectfully request that you contact me to set up an appointment at 617-722-2460 or Rep.ThomasConroy@hou.state.ma.us

Send this newsletter to friends!

I am trying to build my email list, in part to offer the most environmentally efficient way of contacting you about what's happening in your state government. Electronic newsletters also make it easier for you to respond to me by email, and offer me feedback about your thoughts, opinions, and perspectives, which I wholeheartedly welcome. Hearing from you makes me a better advocate and representative for you at the State House. So please send this email to a friend and encourage them to contact me with their own email address. Thank you!

Tom
State
Lincoln, Sudbury, Wayland

Conroy
Representative