



# ***Legislative Update***

## ***Representative Deb Ruggiero***

### ***Middletown & Jamestown***

Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor to serve as State Representative for Middletown and Jamestown. Thank you for your support and confidence.

When I knocked on your door last year and asked for your vote I promised to be accessible and accountable. I ran on a platform of 'environmental economics', elderly, and education.

Here are some of the highlights of what I've done this past year as your State Representative:

- ▶ Instrumental in reinstating the Office of Health Insurance Commissioner in Rhode Island's 2010 budget—the only watchdog of health insurance rates in this state for small businesses and consumers. This office will be critical in implementing health care reform in RI.
- ▶ Co-sponsor of Net Metering Bill which is now law in Rhode Island, compensating green energy producers for surplus electricity from wind turbines.
- ▶ Sponsor of Conservation Easements and Land Trust law which ensures that when a property with a conservation easement is sold, the easement is fully disclosed to the buyer.
- ▶ Collaborate with Town Councils to pass into Rhode Island law:
  - Juvenile Hearing Board in Jamestown
  - Property Tax Exemption for Middletown residents over 65
  - A Fixed Property Tax Abatement for Jamestown Fire and EMS volunteers
- ▶ Serve on joint commission for Economic Development for Port Facilities in Rhode Island charged with developing a strategy to fully utilize coastal resources and geographic position for maintaining and creating jobs in this state.

These are unprecedented economic times. As we look to 2010 we need to create jobs to stabilize our state economy. We must be tenacious, but collaborative. I care about preserving the community in which we live. I will continue to be an articulate and intelligent voice on the House floor for Middletown and Jamestown. I will ensure that your voice is heard and your interests are represented. I hope you find this update of my first year as your State Representative informative and helpful. It is an honor to serve. Thank you for the opportunity. Please call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Representative Deborah Ruggiero

# Jamestown & Middletown on Smith Hill



- Senator Teresa Paiva Weed and Representative Deb Ruggiero welcomed the Jamestown Jazz Band to the State House for their holiday concert. Representative Deb Ruggiero sent each band member a DVD of the performance (perhaps they'll play it for their children some day!)

- Jamestown 8th Grade Lawn School Students received a special Legislative citation presented upon graduation from Rep Ruggiero.
- Representative Ruggiero worked with Jamestown Town Council to pass legislation for a Juvenile Hearing Board. Deb is a strong supporter of the Jamestown Teen Center and the Jamestown Recreation Department.
- Rep. Ruggiero accompanied Rhode Island Education Commissioner Deborah Gist on her tour of Gaudet School in Middletown and Jamestown Lawn School.



- Rep Ruggiero spoke about the importance of public service to the 6th grade class at Gaudet School in Middletown and at Jamestown's "Island Treasures".

- Jamestown resident Joe Tiexiera meets with Rep Ruggiero and RI DOT about repairing the stone wall along the access road in Jamestown



- As well as working with the Middletown Town Council in passing legislation giving Middletown residents over 65 a tax exemption on their property taxes, Rep. Ruggiero also provided the Middletown Senior Center with a \$1,000 check to support the Senior Nutrition Program.

**“ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL”**

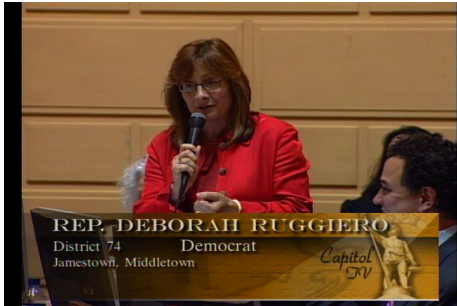
U. S. House Speaker Tip O’Neil

# ***Working Hard For Your Voice to Be Heard***

**As a Freshman legislator Representative Ruggiero made some significant contributions:**

## **REINSTATEMENT OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSIONER**

Representative Ruggiero stood on the House floor requesting the reinstatement of this watchdog office:



**“Prior to this office in 2004, no one scrutinized rate increases from Blue Cross or United. The only way small businesses, you, and I learned of our rate increases was when we opened up our bills! That is not open and transparent government.”**

**-- Rep. Deb Ruggiero**

Even Republican Minority Leader Bob Watson was impressed and commended Rep Ruggiero on the House Floor on June 24, 2009:

**“It takes a Freshman to show us what we have to do here!”**

**-- Republican Minority Leader Bob Watson**

## **CO SPONSOR OF NET METERING BILL FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Representative Ruggiero ran on a platform of “Environmental Economics”—putting wind energy and biofuel at the forefront of economic development. The NET METERING bill provides a cash rebate for any municipality that produces a surplus of wind energy from the wind turbines.



## **SPONSOR OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT & LAND TRUST LAW**

The Nature Conservancy and RI Realtors asked Representative Ruggiero to sponsor a bill that would ensure that when a property with a conservation easement is sold in Rhode Island, the terms of the easement are fully disclosed to the buyer.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR PORTS OF RHODE ISLAND**

Representative Ruggiero is one of only 6 State Reps (only Freshman) and 6 State Senators studying economic development at the Ports of RI, including Quonset and Port of Providence.

**“Quonset Business Park is a jewel in this state— air, rail, sea — we have to have an open mind about creating jobs in future emerging industries like renewable energy and possibly building a high tech business park for research, undersea technology, and using our ‘job shops’ to manufacture ancillary products for the wind energy industry. It’s all about jobs, jobs, jobs!”**

**--Rep. Ruggiero**

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***WORKING HARD FOR YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD  
and YOUR INTERESTS REPRESENTED***



**Rep. Deb Ruggiero leads the Middletown 6th graders  
in a 'mock session' at the State House**

**WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY  
A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

*Paid for by Friends of Deb Ruggiero*