



# Town of Glastonbury

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Richard J. Johnson  
Town Manager

February 18, 2015

State Senator Steve Cassano  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 2100  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

State Representative Prasad Srinivasan  
House Republican Office  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 4200  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

State Representative Mark D. Tweedie  
House Republican Office  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 4200  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Cassano and Representatives Srinivasan and Tweedie:

This letter is written to express our collective concern for the proposal by the Office of State Ethics (OSE) to establish a state-wide Code of Ethics for cities and towns. As Council members representing elected and appointed officials in Glastonbury, we do not support the proposed legislation and feel strongly that such matters are most appropriately and effectively handled at the local level.

A number of our concerns for the overall concept of a state-wide Code of Ethics and the specific proposal by OSE are outlined below.

- Almost 80% of Connecticut's cities and towns currently have a formal Ethics Code in place and a number of communities are drafting a Code for formal action. These local Codes typically include policies on conflicts of interest, allegations of unethical behavior, accepting of gifts and other such topics.
- A "one-size-fits-all" approach does not recognize the well-established ability of cities and towns to effectively make decisions and enact policies that work best for their respective community.
- The requirement that all elected officials, employees and members of land use agencies and others file a financial statement is overly invasive and will clearly have a chilling effect on the willingness of individuals to serve in elected and appointed positions.
- The OSE should not be involved in identifying violations at the local level and certainly not have the authority to assess civil penalties on local officials.
- Training in the new requirements proposed by the OSE will translate directly to added costs to cities and towns.

Again, in our opinion matters such as a Code of Ethics for local officials and employees is best enacted and administered on the local level. State oversight is not required, will not effectively balance the differing requirements of the State's 169 cities and towns, is duplicative of Codes now adopted in communities state-wide will discourage service in elected and appointed positions, and create unnecessary administrative and financial burdens

For the reasons cited herein, we respectfully ask that you oppose SB No. 847.

GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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Cc: Government Administration and Elections Committee Members  
Richard J. Johnson, Town Manager