

CT has consistently ranked at the bottom for business friendly climate and taxation. As a result it has lost business and residents. This is one of the worst states to die in. The Estate Tax and unified gift tax should be abolished as it's unfair; it also puts a huge burden on a family business passed on through generations. Either raise the limit to match the federal or get rid of these tax.

Income tax, personally I would rather a higher sales tax, but keep in mind that Fairfield county has a very high cost of living and \$200,000 in income does not let you live rich here (I make a lot less than that) but if you squeeze successful people or employers, they will move to states where their money goes further.

Property taxes are a huge burden. I make under \$50,000 and taxes for my house; nothing fancy – 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths in need of total updating is \$9,000. The middle class is being bled dry.

One thing CT has a problem with is cutting spending. Our state government is larger than needed. On average public compensation is better than private sector, between salary and benefits, and it is tipping the scale to the detriment of our state and its citizens. We are on our way to becoming the next Detroit. The public sector benefits are too generous, I am in real estate and the Section 8 abuse is sad. The fact that people live so well collecting benefits on the backs of others has to be managed much better (there is less of an incentive to look for work when benefits are too generous). Tax payers do not mind helping, but it should not be a lifestyle for years on end. This also applies to government/teacher pensions; they are way out of line.

We need a friendly business environment to bring jobs to this state, not drive them away. We have great weather, smart population, horrible traffic, so, so public transportation, taxed to death and tons of regulations business wise. If you are reading this and do not see a problem or a correlation, then we truly need better wards of our State. It's time for the state to cut the fat, cut and consolidate the size of the government, renegotiate pensions, and make every dime spent count...because it's my dime and it's frustrating to give up things and budget responsibly only to be hit up again and again in the form of more tax increases (without any noticeable benefit in exchange). As a resident I feel ripped off and as soon as I am able, my plan is to retire elsewhere.

Cordially,

Sue Brace
Stamford, CT