

**DOUG MCCRORY (CT SD-02)**  
**MAY 2026**

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## BIOGRAPHY AND KEY FACTS



### **Biography:**

“For Doug McCrory, giving back has always been a top priority. He was elected with the continued promise of continued accountability and accessibility as the State Senator for the 2nd Senate district in a special election in February 2017 to represent parts of Bloomfield, Hartford and Windsor. He was first elected to the General Assembly in 2004 to represent the 7th House district, which he served for six full terms. Even before his service as a legislator, Doug has been committed to strengthening neighborhoods through education, development and civic engagement.

A vice principal for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Doug has been an educator for over 20 years. Beginning as a teacher at Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School, he has also taught at and served as vice principal at Lewis Fox Middle School. Recognizing the importance of strong role models and education as the keys to positive development, Doug worked with fellow teacher Sadiq Ali to found the Benjamin E. Mays Institute, which emphasizes positive self-esteem through the use of a curriculum infused with African American history and themes.

Doug has also been involved in politics at the grassroots level, serving as a Democratic Town Committee member in the 7th District for several years. Recognizing the importance of participation among people of color in the political process, Doug has continuously encouraged young people to become engaged civically, to register and vote.

A scholarship basketball player at the University of Hartford, Doug has shared his love for the sport with young people by coaching for Hartford’s Northend Little League, the Hartford Hurricanes and the Boys & Girls Club. He believes in teaching children the value of academics combined with the physical discipline of sports. Doug graduated from the University of Hartford with a Master’s in Business Administration, after completing his Bachelor’s degree there. He also earned his Master’s Degree in Elementary Administration from Sacred Heart University and is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. Due to his strong will to better our community coupled with his academic and political success, Doug has been recognized and awarded for many accomplishments. He is a member of the Connecticut Black and Puerto Rican Caucus.

As Senate Chair of the Education Committee, Doug led the approval of a 2019 law creating an African American and Latino studies course available to high school students. Doug continues to champion equity in education through advancing minority teacher recruitment and retention, increased education funding, and supporting youth mental health.

Doug is a Blue Hills resident of Hartford.” [State Senator Doug McCrory Official Website, accessed [5/3/26](#)]

### **KEY FACTS**

**Full name:** Douglas M McCrory

**DOB:** March 16, 1966

**Family:** Ex-wife, Foye Smith; Two children, Cairo, and Khaji

**Current Residence:** 235 Blue Hills Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06112

#### **Education:**

- Date unknown: Master’s in Elementary Administration, Sacred Heart University
- Date unknown: MBA, University of Hartford
- 1984-1988: Bachelor’s Degree, University of Hartford

#### **Political Career:**

- 2017-Present: State Senator, CT-02
- 2005-2017: State Representative, CT-07

#### **Professional Career:**

- 2018-Present: Director of Family and Community Engagement, Capitol Region Education Council
- 2006-mid-2010s: Vice Principal, various schools including Mark Twain Elementary School, Bulkeley High School, and Public Safety Academy
- 1990s-early 2000s: Teacher in Hartford Public Schools, primarily math

# VULNERABILITIES

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **MCCRORY IS BELIEVED TO BE UNDER FEDERAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

#### **MCCRORY IS THE NAMED SUBJECT OF AN ACTIVE FBI INVESTIGATION AND A FEDERAL GRAND JURY PROBE — THE GOVERNOR HAS CALLED ON HIM TO STEP BACK**

- In August 2025, federal prosecutors served subpoenas on the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and the state's Minority Business Initiative naming McCrory and his associate Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin as targets of a grand jury investigation. The probe is run out of the U.S. Attorney's Financial Fraud and Public Corruption Unit.
- McCrory's own attorney told the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission in April 2026 that the senator's phone "was seized" by federal investigators "in conjunction with the reported about grand jury investigation."
- A state-commissioned forensic audit released January 2026 concluded McCrory's conduct revealed "patterns of conduct that strongly suggest potential fraud and misappropriation of public funds." The same week, Gov. Ned Lamont publicly called on McCrory to step back from his Senate leadership: "I have zero tolerance for this type of stuff. I'm not sure he should stay in the positions he's in right now."
- McCrory has refused. He resigned from the Community Investment Fund 2030 board on March 3, 2026 — calling the audit "inaccurate, deceptive, and biased" — but kept his Senate Education Committee co-chairmanship, his Deputy Senate President Pro Tempore title, and his seats on Appropriations and Government Oversight.

*NOTE: McCrory has not been criminally charged as of May 2026 and has denied any wrongdoing.*

#### **MCCRORY DIRECTED \$11 MILLION IN STATE EARMARKS TO A SINGLE NORTH HARTFORD NONPROFIT — IT KEPT ONLY \$2.3 MILLION...**

- Between 2023 and 2025, McCrory steered more than \$11 million in legislative earmarks to the 60-year-old Blue Hills Civic Association. The state-commissioned forensic audit released in January 2026 found Blue Hills kept just \$2.3 million; the rest was sent to outside organizations and individuals on McCrory's instructions.
- Internal Blue Hills budget worksheets bear hand-written notes reading "per conversations with Senator McCrory," "confirm with Doug," "allocation via Senator McCrory," and "per Doug changes." A former Blue Hills employee said she initially mistook McCrory for a co-worker because he spent so much time in the office.
- In an early-2024 email, Blue Hills' executive director described the nonprofit to a colleague as a "conduit" through which McCrory could "funnel more funding" into the community. Spending allocation lists in her files carry the title "PER CONVERSATIONS WITH SENATOR MCCRORY."
- A federal grand jury has subpoenaed records on McCrory, twelve nonprofits, and the state's Department of Economic and Community Development. The state's Open Checkbook transparency portal never registered the pass-through grants because they moved through Blue Hills first.

#### **...AND \$1.7 MILLION OF IT WENT TO A WOMAN BLUE HILLS' OWN BOARD MEMBERS CALLED HIS "GIRLFRIEND"**

- Roughly \$1.7 million of Blue Hills' state funding flowed to Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin, who operates a web of companies under the SHEBA name. Internal Blue Hills board meeting notes from July 2024 warn of a "conflict of interest" because Cicero-Hamlin "is his girlfriend."

- By August 2024, Blue Hills board chair JoAnn Price had told the executive director she wanted Cicero-Hamlin “not to be involved” with Blue Hills because “Doug under investigation.” Price resigned the following month.
- Multiple friends and acquaintances told the Hartford Courant the two recently lived together in a \$780,000 home in Bloomfield. FBI investigators interviewed the out-of-state homeowner; a 2024 Google Street View of the property showed a “Re-elect McCrory” sign in the front yard.
- McCrory has refused to define the relationship: “That’s my personal business. I might have multiple girlfriends.” Asked again in March 2026, he said: “I’m not married. That’s my personal business.” He has never disclosed any relationship with Cicero-Hamlin on his Office of State Ethics filings.
- Cicero-Hamlin and at least one of her named SHEBA employees, plus Blue Hills’ executive director and McCrory’s former campaign deputy treasurer, all made personal contributions to McCrory’s Senate campaigns.

#### **A FORENSIC AUDIT FOUND “POTENTIAL FRAUD” — INCLUDING BACK-DATED CONTRACTS AND NO WORK PRODUCT**

- The CliftonLarsonAllen forensic audit, released January 2026, concluded Blue Hills’ spending revealed “patterns of conduct that strongly suggest potential fraud and misappropriation of public funds.” The audit found “funding allocations were largely determined by Senator McCrory.”
- Auditors uncovered an email asking how to back-date a contract document to inflate a SHEBA grant from \$50,000 to \$600,000, with Blue Hills’ executive director saying she was following McCrory’s instructions. To avoid contracting with SHEBA directly, McCrory directed Blue Hills to set up a “pass-through” routing \$1.5 million through a second nonprofit, which then signed the SHEBA contract.
- A \$50,000 SHEBA “scholarship program” — pitched as 50 scholarships of \$1,000 each — left no record of any recipient. Auditors instead found Netflix charges accounted for as marketing; Amazon, Best Buy, BJ’s, Target, Walgreens, and Walmart purchases; \$120,439 in checks to unknown recipients; and a \$7,748 Discover Card payment.
- Cicero-Hamlin was paid \$42,000 for 150 hours of “leadership and management training” the audit found amounted to a 13-minute YouTube TED Talk, a six-slide PowerPoint with content on four slides, and a two-hour session with a 30-minute breakout. She invoiced \$14,000 for 50 hours of board training auditors said never occurred; board members confirmed they “did not receive training in any format.”
- Cicero-Hamlin invoiced \$84,000 to revise Blue Hills’ employee handbook. Auditors found “no evidence of substantive work product, meaningful policy updates, or documented involvement” by her; the 2007 handbook remained in use.

#### **MCCRORY WAS LOOPED IN ON A THREE-MONTH COVER-UP OF A \$300,000 THEFT — HE AGREED TO DELAY NOTIFYING THE STATE**

- In October 2024, Blue Hills wired \$300,000 in state grant funds to a fraudulent account after a scammer impersonated a subgrantee using an email address spelled slightly differently from the legitimate one. The nonprofit waited three months to notify the state, in violation of its two-week contractual reporting requirement.
- Per the forensic audit’s underlying email record (and Hearst CT’s Dan Haar review), Blue Hills’ CFO Tom Sussman pushed for disclosure in December 2024. Executive director Vicki Gallon-Clark met with McCrory in person on February 7, 2025 to inform him of the theft. Three days later, Gallon-Clark told staff that McCrory “agreed” they should wait until the FBI investigative report came in before sharing with the state.
- Asked about the delay by CT Insider in April 2025, McCrory said: “Hell no. I have a 20-year relationship with them. If I would have known there was a problem about wire fraud, I would have notified them.” The audit’s underlying email record contradicts that denial — Gallon-Clark’s email shows McCrory was informed and signed off on the delay.

- When the state was finally told in late March 2025, DECD suspended millions in funding. Within two weeks, Blue Hills laid off nearly all 30 employees by email. The nonprofit, founded in 1962, has now functionally shut down.

### **MCCRORY LOBBIED FOR A \$750,000 EARMARK TO HIS OWN EMPLOYER — GOV. LAMONT VETOED IT**

- McCrory has worked for the Capitol Region Education Council — an education-sector employer regulated by his Senate Education Committee — for eight years, currently as Director of Family and Community Engagement.
- CT Insider records show McCrory began pressing the state Department of Education in August 2025 to direct \$750,000 in earmarked teacher residency funds solely to CREC — over objections from the Connecticut Education Association and the dean of Quinnipiac University's School of Education.
- On March 3, 2026, Gov. Lamont used his line-item veto to strike McCrory's \$750,000 CREC earmark from Senate Bill 298. Lamont's veto message: "My objection is to the process."
- McCrory's defense at a March 4, 2026 press conference: "I don't benefit financially from this program." Two weeks later, Senate Democrats moved to codify the same earmark in standalone legislation.

### **MCCRORY USED BLUE HILLS' STATE GRANTS AS POLITICAL PROPS — INCLUDING A GIANT NOVELTY CHECK AT A CAMPAIGN EVENT DURING HIS 2024 PRIMARY**

- In June 2024 — during his competitive Democratic primary — McCrory organized a campaign event to present a giant Blue Hills novelty check to Angel of Edgewood, a Hartford nonprofit. The director said McCrory called the executive director from his Capitol office during their meeting and instructed her to wire \$10,000; the money was in the account within two days. The state has since frozen all funding to Angel of Edgewood.
- McCrory arranged for Blue Hills to spend more than \$21,000 in state taxpayer money to rent the Hartford Stage for the premiere of "Two Trains Running," which he attended alongside Cicero-Hamlin.
- Blue Hills contributed \$20,000 in state funds to a "When Black Men Lead" event McCrory co-hosted with then-Rep. Brandon McGee. McGee said he was never told the contribution came from a state grant.
- When Blue Hills funded a "well known senior's" new furnace, plus a restaurant, coffee shop, and dentist's office, the executive director's emails to recipients consistently said: "This is made possible through the advocacy efforts of Senator McCrory."

### **FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS SEIZED MCCRORY'S PHONE — AND SENATE DEMOCRATS ARE CLAIMING LEGISLATIVE PRIVILEGE TO BLOCK PUBLIC RECORDS**

- At an April 2026 Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission hearing, McCrory's own attorney told the panel the senator's phone "was seized" by federal investigators "in conjunction with the reported about grand jury investigation."
- In the same case, Senate Democrats' general counsel argued constitutional "legislative privilege" shielded McCrory's communications — including messages between McCrory and Cicero-Hamlin — from public disclosure. Longtime FOIC executive director Colleen Murphy called the immunity claims "troubling."
- McCrory has failed to produce work-related records from his private accounts and phone in response to FOIA. His attorney conceded Senate staff did not access the senator's personal accounts and relied on McCrory to search his own records "with no independent verification."
- As of April 2026, Cicero-Hamlin and another McCrory-affiliated recipient, RH Realty Services owner Roberta Hoskie, have refused to turn over records showing how their businesses spent nearly \$2 million in state funds received through Blue Hills.

### **ON GUNS, MARRIAGE EQUALITY, CONSENT, ABORTION, VOTING RIGHTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT — MCCRORY HAS VOTED WITH THE GOP**

**MCCRORY VOTED AGAINST CONNECTICUT'S POST-SANDY HOOK GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LAW — ONE OF ONLY 14 HOUSE DEMOCRATS TO DO SO...**

- On April 4, 2013, the Connecticut House passed Senate Bill 1160 — the nation's strongest post-Sandy Hook gun law — by 105-44. McCrory was one of just 14 House Democrats to vote no, alongside 30 Republicans.
- The bill expanded Connecticut's assault weapons ban, banned the sale or purchase of magazines holding more than ten rounds, created the nation's first deadly weapon offender registry, banned armor-piercing bullets, required ammunition certificates for purchase, imposed universal background checks, and mandated prison time for gun trafficking.
- McCrory said on the floor the bill “did nothing to stem urban violence” and was “incomplete” because it did not address gun violence in Connecticut's cities. The CT Mirror's Mark Pazniokas called McCrory's no “an unexpected vote.”
- Seven years later, defending the 2020 Police Accountability Act, McCrory took credit for the SAFE Act on the Senate floor: “We became a leader in this country on holding gun owners accountable.” He did not mention his no vote.

*NOTE: McCrory's stated reason for the SAFE Act no was that the bill did not direct funding to urban gun violence prevention.*

**...AND IN 2019 HE VOTED WITH REPUBLICANS TO STRIP CONNECTICUT CITIES AND TOWNS OF AUTHORITY TO PASS LOCAL GUN ORDINANCES**

- On April 8, 2019, McCrory voted yes on the Joint Favorable motion for House Bill 5227, a Republican-sponsored bill that would have prohibited any Connecticut municipality from adopting an ordinance to regulate firearms. The Joint Judiciary Committee rejected the motion 19-21.
- Joint committee Democrats voted 21-3 against the GOP firearm-preemption bill. McCrory was one of the three Democrats voting yes alongside every committee Republican.
- Per Giffords Law Center, Connecticut is one of only a handful of states whose statutes do not preempt local firearm regulation. The McCrory-backed bill would have aligned Connecticut with states that block local gun safety measures.

**IN 2009 MCCRORY WAS ONE OF JUST 16 HOUSE DEMOCRATS TO VOTE AGAINST CODIFYING MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN CONNECTICUT**

- On April 22, 2009, the Connecticut House passed Senate Bill 899 — the statutory codification of marriage equality after the state Supreme Court's Kerrigan ruling — by 100-44. McCrory was one of just 16 Democrats in the 114-member House majority to vote no.
- That same day, McCrory voted yes on the Cafero amendment, which would have rewritten state law to let any parent pull a child out of any public-school “program of instruction concerning marriage.” The House rejected the amendment 50-93.
- Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell signed the bill into law two days later as Public Act 09-13. McCrory's no put him on the wrong side of one of the era's defining civil-rights votes.

**MCCRORY WAS THE LONE HOUSE DEMOCRAT TO VOTE AGAINST CONNECTICUT'S AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT LAW — AFTER DISMISSING ASSAULT CONCERNS WITH “A SMILE AND A WINK”**

- On April 28, 2016, the Connecticut House passed HB 5376 138-7, requiring institutions of higher education to use an affirmative-consent standard in campus sexual misconduct policies. McCrory was the only House Democrat to vote no, joining six Republicans.

- During debate, McCrory asked whether hugging and kissing constituted sexual activity and posed a hypothetical about a person making a false rape accusation after a breakup. He said: “A smile and a wink is not a smile and a wink anymore. I don’t know what affirmative consent is actually saying.”
- Sen. Mae Flexer, the bill’s Senate champion, said McCrory’s remarks showed a “lack of understanding about sexual assault.” Flexer’s reply on the record: “A wink and a smile has never been consent.”
- Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed the bill into law as Public Act 16-106, making Connecticut the fourth state to adopt an affirmative-consent standard.

**ON THE 2022 ABORTION EXPANSION BILL, MCCRORY USED HIS FLOOR TIME TO AMPLIFY THE CLAIM THAT ABORTION IS “USED AS BIRTH CONTROL” IN BLACK COMMUNITIES...**

- During Senate floor debate on Connecticut’s 2022 abortion expansion bill, McCrory said one of the best speeches he had heard in 17 years was Rep. Treenee McGee’s House floor speech against the legislation. McCrory said McGee had noted Black women make up 12% of the population but have 38% of abortions and that the procedure is “used as birth control in our community.”
- McCrory’s exact words on the Senate floor: “She said it’s used as birth control in our community. I’m just giving you the facts. You make your own decision. ... Rep. McGee pulled the scab off something. Yes, she did.”
- McCrory voted yes on the underlying bill, adding, “Anyone who knows me knows I stay in my lane. ... The issue of women’s rights — I don’t touch that. Women should do whatever they want with their body.”

**...AND IN 2025 HE CROSSED THE AISLE THREE TIMES TO HELP REPUBLICANS RE-REGULATE ABORTION ACCESS**

- On March 27, 2025, McCrory was one of only two Public Health Committee Democrats — and the only Democrat to support three Republican amendments — backing efforts to insert restrictions back into HB 7213, Connecticut’s bill repealing dated abortion regulations.
- McCrory voted yes on Rep. Klarides-Ditria’s amendment adding religious-conscience refusal language to reproductive health care; yes on Rep. Marra’s amendment imposing a hospital-only restriction on later-term abortions; and yes on Sen. Somers’s amendment mandating physicians report every abortion to the Department of Public Health, including patient age, town of residence, method, and complications.
- On the record supporting Sen. Somers’s mandatory-reporting amendment, McCrory pressed his Democratic co-chair: “If we’re currently collecting data, why wouldn’t we want to continue to collect data?” Rep. Anne Dauphinais immediately followed McCrory by tying the data collection to tracking “who’s benefiting” from state funding for Planned Parenthood.

*NOTE: McCrory voted yes on the underlying bill (Public Act 25-28) on final passage. Championed by Public Health co-chairs Sen. Saud Anwar and Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey, the bill repealed Connecticut’s dated abortion-specific regulations and brought reproductive health care under the same statutory framework that governs every other medical procedure in the state — stripping out medically unnecessary paperwork, location restrictions, and reporting requirements.*

**MCCRORY WAS THE LONE SENATE DEMOCRAT TO BACK A REPUBLICAN AMENDMENT IMPOSING A MAIL-BASED VERIFICATION AND PURGE MECHANISM ON SAME-DAY REGISTRANTS AND ABSENTEE VOTERS**

- On May 8, 2024, Senate Republicans offered Senate Amendment Schedule “C” (LCO 5738) to HB 5498, requiring registrars to send mail-based confirmation notices to every voter who registered through same-day registration or voted by absentee ballot — and to place any voter whose confirmation mail was returned undelivered onto an inactive list and report them to the State Elections Enforcement Commission for investigation.
- The Senate rejected the amendment 13-23. McCrory was the only one of 24 Senate Democrats voting yes; the other twelve yes votes came from all twelve Senate Republicans.

- Common Cause, the ACLU, and the League of Women Voters have repeatedly opposed mail-based purge mechanisms tied to same-day and absentee voting, noting they disproportionately drop low-income voters, voters of color, and voters in transient housing situations from the rolls.

**MCCRORY HAS VOTED WITH REPUBLICANS AGAINST CONNECTICUT'S CLEAN-ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA — AND TAKES MONEY FROM EVERSOURCE AND THE HEATING-OIL DEALERS WHO LOBBY AGAINST IT**

- In March 2024, McCrory voted yes in the Energy & Technology Committee on House Bill 5356, which would have reclassified all hydropower and nuclear facilities as Class I renewable energy sources — using up clean-energy credits otherwise available for solar, geothermal, and sustainable hydropower. CTLCV called the bill “a partisan effort to weaken our state's renewable energy programs and expand the state's dependence on oil and gas.” Conservation Law Foundation testified against the fuel-cell language because “most hydrogen used as a feedstock for fuel cells is produced using fossil fuels.”
- In April 2018, McCrory voted yes in the Judiciary Committee on SB 347, which would have stripped the DEEP commissioner of authority to modify or revoke consent orders against polluters. CTLCV said the bill sought to “circumvent environmental protection laws for the benefit of one company.”
- McCrory takes lobbyist contributions from Eversource Energy (three separate in-house lobbyists), AVANGRID/UII, Dominion, and the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association.
- In May 2025, McCrory voted yes on Senate Bill 1523, the bill authorizing a Connecticut bear hunt. The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters said the bill sought to “establish a bear hunting season under the pretense of addressing human-bear conflicts” and Humane World for Animals said the bill was “hiding behind the guise of a public safety need in order to kill bears.”
- In June 2025, McCrory voted yes on House Bill 7231 ending Connecticut's century-old Sunday hunting ban on private land. The bill was scored as opposed by CTLCV; Sierra Club Connecticut testified the change disregarded park visitors' right to enjoy the outdoors. It was signed into law as Public Act 25-138.

**MCCRORY ONCE BACKED MOVING NEW STATE WORKERS TO DEFINED-CONTRIBUTION PENSIONS — AND HAS VOTED AGAINST LABOR INTERESTS MULTIPLE TIMES**

- At an April 2018 League of Women Voters forum, McCrory said new Connecticut state workers should be moved to a “defined contribution” plan — a position long opposed by Connecticut state employee unions.
- The Connecticut AFL-CIO 2017–18 scorecard gave McCrory a 70% rating, citing three “wrong” votes: yes on the 2017 bipartisan budget (SB 1502, which limited future SEBAC agreements, established the Municipal Accountability Review Board, raised the prevailing wage threshold to \$1 million, and increased teacher pension contributions); no on SB 957 (the East Windsor casino); and yes on the MMA healthcare cap bill (HB 6266).
- On AFSCME interest arbitration awards in 2019 and 2020, McCrory abstained on the Senate floor — and the resolution to approve the 2019 AFSCME Local 749 award failed by a single vote.

**CHARTER SCHOOL CRUSADER, ENEMY OF TEACHERS' UNIONS**

**MCCRORY HAS PUSHED BILLS TO STRIP THE LEGISLATURE FROM CHARTER APPROVAL AND ATTACKED THE TEACHERS' UNIONS WHO OPPOSED HIM**

- In both 2022 and 2023, as Senate Education Committee co-chair, McCrory personally made the motion and voted yes to advance bills (SB 229 and SB 1096) that would have stripped the General Assembly from the charter school approval process and created a dedicated General Fund grant account to fund new charters without legislative appropriation.
- When the Connecticut Education Association and AFT Connecticut emailed lawmakers in March 2023 noting SB 1096 would appear on the CEA's legislative scorecard, McCrory publicly accused the state's two largest teachers' unions of “vaguely threatening” lawmakers and said their email had placed “a bull's-eye on each and every single one of our backs.”

- McCrory delivered a 31-minute uninterrupted speech on the committee floor defending charters, demanding a roll-call vote: “I want everybody to have to put their name on it!” CEA President Kate Dias called his characterization of the union email “a really gross misrepresentation.”
- In April 2023, McCrory was one of four Democrats joining sixteen Republicans in a 33-20 Appropriations vote against funding a long-stalled Danbury charter school the legislature had previously approved.
- That record drew McCrory two primary challenges in 2024 — from Connecticut AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Shellye Davis and Windsor Board of Education member Ayana Taylor. The Connecticut Mirror tied his primaries directly to his “fiery support for charter schools.”

## **FUNDED BY LOBBYISTS AND CORPORATE INTERESTS**

### **MCCRORY ACCEPTED \$14,987 ACROSS 170 LOBBYIST CONTRIBUTIONS — FROM EVERSOURCE, HEATING-OIL DEALERS, ANTHEM, COMCAST, AND CONNECTICUT'S TOP CONTRACT LOBBYING SHOPS**

- Eversource Energy lobbyists Margaret Morton, Daniel Moore, and Thomas Dorsey have donated to McCrory's Senate campaigns. So have lobbyists for AVANGRID/UIL (Eversource's main competitor), Dominion, and current Mainspring Energy.
- The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association — the heating-oil trade group that has lobbied against the state's climate and electrification policy — has cut McCrory checks through its president Christian Herb and lobbyist Nickey Kollie.
- Health insurance industry lobbyists for the Insurance Association of Connecticut and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield have contributed. Comcast in-house lobbyist Rob Earley has given \$100 in each of McCrory's last three Senate cycles.
- Lobbyists at Gaffney, Bennett & Associates (\$1,300 across 13 contributions) — whose published client list includes Purdue Pharma, Eversource, AT&T, Wal-Mart, the CT Charter School Network, Service Corporation International, Curaleaf, DoorDash, and the WWE — have steadily backed McCrory. So have lobbyists at FOCUS Government Affairs, whose client list includes Reynolds American and Flock Safety (license-plate-reader mass surveillance).

### **MCCRORY TOOK \$1,250 FROM BEER WHOLESALERS...**

- During the 2018 cycle, McCrory received \$250 contributions from executives of Levine Distributing Company (an Anheuser-Busch InBev wholesaler), F&F Distributors, Star Distributors, Northeast Beverage, and Dichello Distributors in Orange.

### **...THEN INTRODUCED A BILL TO FORCE CONNECTICUT'S 80 CRAFT BREWERIES TO CHOOSE BETWEEN A TAP ROOM OR DISTRIBUTION**

- In January 2019, McCrory filed Senate Bill 742, which would have required Connecticut craft breweries to choose between operating a tap room or distributing their beer — a bill industry advocates said would “cripple” Connecticut's 80-plus craft brewers. Hanging Hills Brewing's founder said the bill would have forced him to lay off five of his six employees.
- The Stamford Advocate editorial board said the beneficiaries were “national beer distributors such as Anheuser-Busch and Heineken... the kinds of companies that have lobbyists and donate to political campaigns.” Charter Oak Brewing's owner said of the wholesalers: “We've got the big guys' attention now. And if they want to, they can squish us like bugs.”
- After public backlash, McCrory withdrew SB 742.

### **MCCRORY INSERTED A LAST-MINUTE PROVISION INTO THE 297-PAGE CANNABIS BILL TO LET A WEALTHY THERAPLANT INVESTOR JUMP THE STATE LICENSE LOTTERY**

- In the closing hours of the June 2021 cannabis legalization debate, McCrory insisted his colleagues insert language at the bottom of the 297-page bill to allow J.D. DeMatteo — a wealthy investor about to profit from the \$100 million sale of Theraplant, Connecticut's first medical marijuana producer — to skip the state license lottery if he partnered with a “social equity” applicant.
- McCrory acknowledged the language was written with DeMatteo in mind, calling him “the Connecticut guy.” The provision was stripped after public objection. McCrory withheld his vote for eight minutes after the floor tally hit 16-16, then cast yes as the bill passed 19-17. He left the chamber without comment.

# SUPPORTING INFORMATION

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

### FAMILY

#### EX-WIFE FOYE SMITH

**Per A September 2015 Courant Article, McCrory's Wife Foye Smith Won The Democratic Primary For Hartford Probate Judge In 2015 As Part Of Mayoral Candidate Luke Bronin's Endorsed Slate.** "His [McCrory's] wife, Foye Smith, who won the Democratic primary for probate judge, was part of Bronin's endorsed slate, which included several black candidates with ties to north Hartford." [Hartford Courant, 9/20/15]

### SIBLING

**In November 2012, McCrory Disclosed That His Older Sister Ava McCrory "A Hartford Mother Of Three Sons, Died In August 2011 After Living With HIV And Diabetes." The Disclosure Came As McCrory Urged AIDS Advocates To Speak Up Against \$248,784 In State AIDS Service Cuts.** "State Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, also told advocates to speak up as lawmakers debate in the coming weeks and months how to close the budget deficit, which is projected at \$363 million for the current year and \$1.1 billion in 2013-14. His older sister, Ava McCrory, a Hartford mother of three sons, died in August 2011 after living with HIV and diabetes. 'Education is very important for people to be informed about the disease because it's not on the front burner like it used to be,' Douglas McCrory said. 'It's like, 'Oh, we dealt with that a long time ago.'" [Hartford Courant, 11/30/12]

### PARENTS

**McCrory's Father, Isaac N. McCrory, Died February 23, 2020 At Age 82. Per His Death Notice, Isaac Was Survived By Wife Mary McCrory And Children Kenneth, Gina, And Senator Douglas (Foye) McCrory.** "Isaac N. McCrory, 82, son of the late Henry Douglas and Fannie Mae McCrory passed away peacefully February 23, 2020. Preceded in death by daughter Ava McCrory, precious memories are left to his beloved wife Mary McCrory; children, Kenneth, Gina, and Senator Douglas (Foye) McCrory; seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, sister Emma Sue (Reggie) Myers. A Celebration of his Life will take place Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 11:30AM at Hopewell Baptist Church, 280 Windsor Ave., Windsor, CT." [Hartford Courant, 3/01/20]

### BASKETBALL

**An April 2008 Hartford Courant Profile Detailed McCrory's Hartford Roots: He Played At South Catholic High School, Was Named To The Courant's First All-State Team In 1984 Alongside NBA Star Charles Smith, Played At Holy Cross For A Year Before Transferring To The University Of Hartford, And Worked At CIGNA Before Becoming A Teacher.** "In the grainy black-and-white photo, Charles Smith stands beneath a hoop with one hand above his head and a finger tugging on a basketball net. To the right is Doug McCrory, hands behind his back, wearing knee-high white socks and classic '80s thigh-high basketball shorts. It's April 1984 and McCrory stands with members of the Class L Courant All-State basketball team. Smith, who would go on to the University of Pittsburgh and the NBA, is the face that jumps off the page in The Courant's first winter All-State section. But 24 years later, it's McCrory who is still a notable presence in his hometown. A state representative from Hartford, McCrory still lives in the North End neighborhood where he grew up. He has been a teacher and is a school administrator in the city, but there are still those who remember him as a star at South Catholic and a member of The Courant's first All-State boys basketball team. [...] McCrory went to Holy Cross for a year before transferring to the University of Hartford, living on a campus that was within walking distance of his North End neighborhood. He was one of four captains in the 1987-88 season. After receiving an MBA, he spent a year working for CIGNA. Then he became a teacher. And after 11 years of teaching, he moved into school administration. 'When I got into the classroom, I saw there was a need for more young men as role models in the schools,' McCrory said. 'I knew the kids had some of the same dreams I had. I wanted to teach them how to get there.'" [Hartford Courant, 4/15/08]

**In August 2005, McCrory Backed Saving The Greater Hartford Pro-Am Summer Basketball League At Fox Middle School, Saying The League Provided Hartford Residents A Chance To See Top Basketball They Could Not**

**Otherwise Afford To Watch.** "One of those people was state representative Douglas McCrory. McCrory played summer basketball in Hartford from 17 into his mid-20s and knows firsthand the impact the league has on the people who play it and the people who watch it. 'On hot summer nights, people from the community can come down and enjoy a good brand of basketball and see something they have never seen before and can't see anywhere else,' McCrory said. Many in the stands at Fox Middle School are UConn fans but have been priced out of the Civic Center (never mind Gampel Pavilion). [...] 'I like it being right at Fox,' McCrory said. 'I like it where the crowd is right on top of you and you can hear them criticizing you or cheering for you, depending upon their loyalties.'" [Hartford Courant, 8/07/05]

**McCrory Said Basketball "Provided Structure" In His Life And Credited South Catholic Coach Joe Reilly With Giving Him A "Road Map" To College, Saying Basketball Was "Certainly Important" To His Success.** "He played for Joe Reilly, whom he calls the greatest coach in Connecticut high school basketball history. Reilly, a former Marine, taught his players to be disciplined and serious, traits that McCrory carried into adulthood. 'A lot of things we learned on the court matriculated into our lives,' McCrory said. 'Basketball for us provided structure. After school, we knew what we were going to do. We were going to practice during the season. And if it wasn't the season, we were going to play ball. So it kept us off the streets. It kept us in touch with adults. We were always around adults who cared about us.' [...] It was what he learned from Reilly as a freshman that opened McCrory's mind to future possibilities. 'He gave us a road map,' McCrory said. 'So by the time I finished my freshman year of high school, I knew I was going to college. I knew I was going to college on a basketball scholarship. The program was in place to do it. People who went through there before had done it. I knew I was just as talented as them, so I figured if I listened to what [Reilly] said, I was going to go to college.' McCrory won't say basketball was his only road to college because he grew up in a stable home. But he is the only person in his family with a college degree and understands the odds he overcame. 'It would have been a little more difficult for me to be as successful as I am today,' McCrory said. 'Basketball was certainly important.'" [Hartford Courant, 4/15/08]

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**In December 2012, McCrory Coached The Hartford Hurricanes Pop Warner Pee Wee Football Team To The National Championships In Florida After A Perfect 13-0 Season. McCrory's Son Cairo, 11, Was A Wide Receiver On The Team.** "There was a fundraiser Tuesday at T.G.I. Fridays on the Berlin Turnpike, where one of the team's coaches works as a cook. Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, a coach and father of 11-year-old wide receiver Cairo, organized an event at the Red Rock Tavern in Hartford on Wednesday night. The Capitol Region Education Council sponsored some students, McCrory said, and local businesses gave what they could. The city chipped in \$20,000." [Hartford Courant, 12/01/12]

**On December 5, 2012, McCrory's Pop Warner Hartford Hurricanes Pee Wee Team Lost 22-0 To The Beacon House Falcons Of Washington, D.C. In The National Semifinals, After Beating The Texas Knights 25-24 In Triple Overtime In The Quarterfinals.** "The Hartford Hurricanes lost 22-0 on Wednesday to the Beacon House Falcons of Washington, D.C., in the semifinals of the Pop Warner Super Bowl. Hartford, a Division I pee wee football team, had reached the semifinals with a triple-overtime victory, 25-24, over the Knights from Texas on Sunday at the Wide World of Sports complex near Orlando, Fla. In that game, coach Doug McCrory said that many of his players became dehydrated because of the heat, something they are not used to in Connecticut this time of year. On Wednesday, McCrory said, heat was not a factor. The Hurricanes ran into a Beacon House team used to playing in the national tournament. McCrory said it was Beacon House's fifth appearance and it lost in the finals last year. 'They had three big plays, that was the difference,' McCrory said. 'They were hungry to get back to the championship. We played very well; the kids represented the city very well.'" [Hartford Courant, 12/06/12]

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

**McCrory Was Awarded The Alvin W. Penn Award For Excellence In Leadership By The Connecticut Commission On Human Rights And Opportunities On November 14, 2024, At The Aqua Turf Club's Annual Civil Rights Leaders, Legends, And Equity Forum And Awards Ceremony.** "The Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities honored Senator Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, with the Alvin W. Penn Award for Excellence in Leadership, an accolade presented to officials who embody the leadership qualities of the late Alvin Penn. Senator McCrory received this award during the 2024 Civil Rights Leaders, Legends, and Equity Forum and Awards Ceremony at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville on Nov. 14." The award is named for the late Bridgeport state senator Alvin Penn, best known for championing Connecticut's landmark anti-racial-profiling law that now bears his name. [Connecticut Senate Democrats, "Senator McCrory Receives the Alvin W. Penn Award for Excellence in Leadership," accessed 5/11/26]

**McCrorry Was Named Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church's "Man Of The Year" In 2002 — A Local Faith Community Recognition That Predates His 2004 First Election To The General Assembly By Two Years.** "McCrorry lives in the Blue Hills neighborhood of Hartford with his wife, a public defender, and children. They attend the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bloomfield, Connecticut, where he was awarded Man of the Year in 2002." [Project Vote Smart, Douglas McCrorry Biography, accessed 5/11/26]

**In February 2009, McCrorry Was Named A Community Service Award Honoree By The Urban League Of Greater Hartford At Their 2009 Black History Awards Celebration. He Was Also Cited As Co-Founder Of The Benjamin E. Mays Institute And A Volunteer With The Sons Of Thunder Coalition Basketball Nonprofit.** "State Representative Douglas McCrorry, who represents Hartford in the Connecticut General Assembly, was named a Community Service Award Honoree by the Urban League of Greater Hartford at their 2009 Black History Awards celebration event held Feb. 7. February is annually celebrated as National Black History month. 'It's always nice to be recognized for working for what you believe in, frankly though it is the Urban League that deserves credit for inspiring people to lift themselves up and be the best they can be,' said McCrorry, a vice principal in the Hartford school system. Believing in the importance of strong role models and education as the keys to positive development, McCrorry helped found the Benjamin E. Mays Institute, which emphasizes positive self-esteem through the use of a curriculum infused with African American history and themes. McCrorry attended the University of Hartford on a basketball and academic scholarship, and since has shared his love for the sport with young people through the non-profit Sons of Thunder Coalition. [...] Rep. McCrorry is serving his third term in the state legislature representing Hartford's 7th Assembly District. He serves on the Appropriations, Education and Higher Education Committees." [Hartford Courant, 2/15/09]

## PERSONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

*NOTE: OSE retention policy is to only keep financial disclosures for five years, so records prior to 2020 were unavailable.*

### EMPLOYMENT

**McCrorry Reported The Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) As His Only Outside Employer On Every Annual Statement Of Financial Interests He Filed From 2020 Through 2025.** "INCOME SOURCES [...] Type Of Income Received: Salary/Wages [...] Name of Employer or Other Source: CREC [...] Recipient: Self." [CT Office of State Ethics, McCrorry Statement of Financial Interests]

### REAL PROPERTY

**McCrorry Disclosed That He Personally Owned 235 Blue Hills Avenue In Hartford On Every SFI Filed From 2020 Through 2025.** "REAL PROPERTY [...] Street Address 1: 235 Blue Hills Avenue [...] City: Hartford [...] State: CONNECTICUT [...] Zip: 06112 [...] Owner or Beneficiary: Owner [...] Held Directly?: [checked]." [CT Office of State Ethics, McCrorry Statement of Financial Interests]

**McCrorry Also Owned A Property At 3755 Salem Meadows Drive In Lithonia, Georgia (Outside Atlanta In DeKalb County), Disclosed On Every SFI Filed From 2020 Through 2025.** "Street Address 1: 3755 Salem Meadows Drive [...] City: Lithonia [...] State: GEORGIA [...] Zip: 30038 [...] Owner or Beneficiary: Owner [...] Held Directly?: [checked]." [CT Office of State Ethics, McCrorry Statement of Financial Interests]

### DEBTS OVER \$10,000 (CONFIDENTIAL ADDENDUM)

**McCrorry Disclosed Two Creditors To Whom He, His Spouse, Or A Dependent Owed More Than \$10,000 — Wells Fargo Bank And Franklin Trust Federal Credit Union — On Every SFI Filed From 2020 Through 2025; He Waived Confidentiality On The Addendum Each Year So It Was Disclosed Publicly.** "I choose to waive confidentiality such that my confidential addendum may be disclosed. [...] Name of Creditor: Wells Fargo Bank [...] 30 State House Square [...] Hartford, CONNECTICUT 06103 [...] Name of Creditor: Franklin Trust Credit Union [...] 632 Franklin Avenue [...] Hartford, CONNECTICUT 06114." [CT Office of State Ethics, McCrorry Statement of Financial Interests]

### FAMILY

**McCrorry Listed Foye Smith As His Spouse On The 2020 SFI He Filed In April 2021; Every SFI From The 2021 Filing Year Forward Reflects No Spouse.** "Spouse First Name and Initial: Foye | Spouse Last Name: Smith." [CT Office of State Ethics, McCrorry Statement of Financial Interests]

**McCrorry Disclosed One Dependent Child On His 2020, 2021, And 2022 SFIs; The 2023, 2024, And 2025 SFIs Each Check The "No Dependent Children" Box.** "FAMILY MEMBERS (CHILDREN) [...] Child First Name and Initial: Child | Child Last Name: \*\*\*." [CT Office of State Ethics, McCrorry Statement of Financial Interests]

## NO DISCLOSURES (UNCHANGED 2020–2025)

**McCrorry Reported No Business Associations, No Trusts, No Blind Trusts, No Securities Holdings With A Fair Market Value Above \$5,000, No State Leases, And No State Contracts On Any SFI He Filed From 2020 Through 2025.** "BUSINESSES [...] If you are not associated with any business [checked] [...] TRUSTS [...] If you are not part of a trust [checked] [...] BLIND TRUST [...] If you do not have a Blind Trust(s) [checked] [...] SECURITIES [...] If you had no interest in securities with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000 at any time during the calendar year [checked] [...] LEASES [...] If you do not have a State lease(s) [checked] [...] CONTRACTS [...] If you do not have a State contract(s) [checked]." [CT Office of State Ethics, McCrorry Statement of Financial Interests]

## PUBLIC RECORDS

### PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

#### 235 BLUE HILLS AVENUE HARTFORD, CT

**2026: McCrorry Owned His 235 Blue Hills Avenue, Hartford Residence Through The "Living Revocable Trust Of Douglas McCrorry," A 2,960-Square-Foot, 4-Bedroom, 1.6-Bath Colonial Built In 1890 On A 10,080-Square-Foot Lot, Appraised By The City At \$204,400.** Per the City of Hartford Assessor, parcel 173-146-017 at 235 Blue Hills Ave is owned by "MCCRORY DOUGLAS TRUSTEE / LIVING REVOCABLE TRUST OF DOUGLAS MCCRORY," classified as one-family (LUC 101), built 1890, Colonial style, 4 bedrooms, 1.6 baths, 2,960 sq ft of finished area, on a 10,080 sq ft lot, with an appraised total value of \$204,400 and a 2026 assessment of \$75,117 (building \$67,951; land \$7,166). [City of Hartford Assessor, Parcel 173-146-017, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

- **McCrorry Transferred 235 Blue Hills Avenue To His Own Living Revocable Trust For \$5 On December 29, 2025, Recorded On Hartford Land Records At Book 08485, Page 0081.** Per the City of Hartford Assessor's Current Property Sales Information panel for parcel 173-146-017: Sale Date 12/29/2025; Sale Price \$5; Grantor (Seller) MCCRORY DOUGLAS; Legal Reference 08485 0081. The grantee on the deed is "MCCRORY DOUGLAS TRUSTEE / LIVING REVOCABLE TRUST OF DOUGLAS MCCRORY." [City of Hartford Assessor, Parcel 173-146-017, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

**McCrorry Was Delinquent On The 2024 Property Tax Bill For His 235 Blue Hills Avenue Hartford Residence By \$3,072.10 As Of May 9, 2026 — Roughly Four Months Past The January 2026 Second-Installment Due Date.** Per the City of Hartford Tax Collector, bill 2024-01-0016681 (parcel 173-146-017, REAL ESTATE, billed in the name "MCCRORY DOUGLAS LIVING REVOCABLE TRUST OF DOUG") shows a total tax of \$5,179.32, paid amount of \$2,317.75, and an outstanding balance of \$3,072.10. Tax Collector account info last updated May 9, 2026. [City of Hartford Tax Collector, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

**McCrorry Paid The 2013 Through 2023 Tax Bills On His 235 Blue Hills Avenue Hartford Residence On Time And In Full Each Year, With Annual Tax Bills Climbing From \$1,723.20 (2013 Grand List) To \$5,179.32 (2022 And Later Grand Lists).** Per the City of Hartford Tax Collector for parcel 173-146-017: 2013 Grand List \$1,723.20 paid; 2014 \$3,532.80 paid; 2015 \$3,709.00 paid; 2016 \$3,670.68 paid; 2017 \$3,854.10 paid; 2018 \$3,988.64 paid; 2019 \$3,988.64 paid; 2020 \$3,988.64 paid; 2021 \$5,179.32 paid; 2022 \$5,179.32 paid; 2023 \$5,179.32 paid; 2024 \$5,179.32 billed, \$2,317.75 paid, \$3,072.10 outstanding. [City of Hartford Tax Collector, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

#### 321 GRANBY STREET HARTFORD, CT

**McCrorry Owned Property At 321 Granby Street, A 1,480-Square-Foot, 4-Bedroom, 2-Bath Vinyl-Sided Split Level Built In 1960 On A 13,540-Square-Foot Lot, Appraised By The City At \$225,600.** Per the City of Hartford Assessor,

parcel 126-001-019 at 321 Granby St is owned by "MCCRORY DOUGLAS TRUSTEE / LIVING REVOCABLE TRUST OF DOUGLAS MCCRORY" with a mailing address of 235 Blue Hills Av, classified as one-family (LUC 101), built 1960, Split Level style, Aluminum/Vinyl exterior, asphalt roof, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,480 sq ft of finished area, on a 13,540 sq ft lot (zoned N4-1), appraised at \$225,600 with a 2026 assessment of \$82,909 (building \$76,036; xtra features \$184; land \$6,689). [City of Hartford Assessor, Parcel 126-001-019, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

**McCorry Transferred 321 Granby Street To His Own Living Revocable Trust For \$5 On December 29, 2025 — The Same Day He Did The Same With His 235 Blue Hills Avenue Residence.** Per the City of Hartford Assessor's Current Property Sales Information panel for parcel 126-001-019: Sale Date 12/29/2025; Sale Price \$5; Grantor (Seller) MCCRORY DOUGLAS; Legal Reference 08485 0084. The grantee is the Living Revocable Trust of Douglas McCorry. [City of Hartford Assessor, Parcel 126-001-019, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

**McCorry Has Paid Every Annual Property Tax Bill On 321 Granby Street On Time And In Full From The 2013 Through The 2024 Hartford Grand List Cycles, With No Outstanding Balance As Of May 9, 2026.** Per the City of Hartford Tax Collector for parcel 126-001-019: 2013 Grand List \$3,875.56 paid; 2014 \$3,972.66 paid; 2015 \$4,179.80 paid; 2016 \$3,790.36 paid; 2017 \$3,979.72 paid; 2018 \$4,118.64 paid; 2019 \$4,118.64 paid; 2020 \$4,118.64 paid; 2021 \$5,716.58 paid; 2022 \$5,716.58 paid; 2023 \$5,716.58 paid; 2024 \$5,716.58 billed, \$5,716.58 paid, \$0 outstanding (billed in the name "MCCRORY DOUGLAS LIVING REVOCABLE TRUST OF DOUG" after the 12/29/25 transfer). [City of Hartford Tax Collector, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

## 3755 SALEM MEADOWS DRIVE LITHONIA, GA

**McCorry Owned A 1,480-Square-Foot, 3-Bedroom, 2.5-Bath Bi-Level House Built In 1998 At 3755 Salem Meadows Drive In Lithonia, Georgia With A 2025 Appraised Fair Market Value Of \$243,300.** Per the DeKalb County, GA Property Appraiser, parcel 16 045 01 165 at 3755 Salem Meadows Dr, Lithonia, GA 30038 is owned by "McCorry Douglas" with a mailing address at the same property location. Property Class R3 Residential 1 family; Tax District 80 (Stonecrest); 0.24 acres; built 1998; bi-level wood frame style; 1,480 sq ft; 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 1 half bath; central forced-air heat and A/C with one masonry fireplace. 2025 valuation: land \$49,000 + building \$194,300 = total \$243,300 (assessed \$97,320). Exemption Type: "No" (no homestead exemption claimed). [DeKalb County GA Property Appraiser, Parcel 16 045 01 165, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

- **McCorry Bought The Lithonia, Georgia Property In January 2006 For \$140,000 From A Seller Named Deidra L. Smith.** Per the DeKalb County GA Property Appraiser sales history for parcel 16 045 01 165: 1/18/2006 — Sale Price \$140,000; Instrument WD (Warranty Deed); Grantor SMITH DEIDRA L; Grantee MCCRORY DOUGLAS; Deed Book 18442, Page 00223; Qualification: Qualified, Valid Sale FMV. Smith Deidra L had purchased the property on 6/4/2003 for \$122,500 from Loretha H Summers (deed book 14851, page 00483). [DeKalb County GA Property Appraiser, Parcel 16 045 01 165, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

**McCorry Has Paid Every DeKalb County, Georgia Property Tax Bill On 3755 Salem Meadows Drive On Time And In Full From 2018 Through 2025,** Per the DeKalb County GA Tax Commissioner tax-history table for parcel 16 045 01 165 (Tax Year / Cycle / Billed / Paid / Due): 2018 / County / \$2,193.86 / -\$2,193.86 / \$0.00; 2019 / \$2,482.82 / -\$2,482.82 / \$0.00; 2020 / \$2,614.12 / -\$2,614.12 / \$0.00; 2021 / \$3,065.52 / -\$3,065.52 / \$0.00; 2022 / \$3,830.54 / -\$3,830.54 / \$0.00; 2023 / \$4,505.96 / -\$4,505.96 / \$0.00; 2024 / \$4,956.08 / -\$4,956.08 / \$0.00; 2025 / \$4,794.20 / -\$4,794.20 / \$0.00; Total \$28,443.10 / -\$28,443.10 / \$0.00. [DeKalb County GA Tax Commissioner, [accessed 5/09/26](#)]

## VOTER REGISTRATION

**McCorry Is A Registered Democrat At His Home In Hartford And Has Voted Regularly In Most Elections Since 2000, He First Registered To Vote In Connecticut In 1988.** [NGPVAN, accessed 5/2/26]

## COURT RECORDS

### 2020 DIVORCE FROM FOYE SMITH (HHD-FA20-6135079-S)

**November 2020: McCorry's Then-Wife Foye Smith Filed For Dissolution Of Marriage In Hartford Superior Court.** "HHD-FA20-6135079-S; SMITH, FOYE v. MCCRORY, DOUGLAS; Case Type: F00 - Family - Dissolution of Marriage - C.G.S. Chapter 815j; Court Location: HARTFORD JD; File Date: 11/17/2020; Return Date: 11/24/2020." [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [11/17/20](#)]

- **McCrorry Was Self-Represented Throughout The Divorce Proceedings And Listed 235 Blue Hills Avenue As His Address.** "D-01: DOUGLAS MCCRORY; Self-Rep: 235 BLUE HILLS AVE, HARTFORD, CT 06112; File Date: 11/18/2020; Category: Defendant." [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [11/18/20](#)]

**January 2021: The Parties Moved To Waive Connecticut's Statutory Waiting Period For Divorce, And Judge Robert Nastri Granted The Waiver.** "Entry 101.00, MOTION FOR WAIVER, filed 12/22/2020 by Plaintiff: 'Waive Statutory Time Period By Agreement of Parties [sic].' RESULT: Granted 1/26/2021 HON ROBERT NASTRI." [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [12/22/20](#)]

**January 2021: Both Parties Filed Long-Form Financial Affidavits — Documents Automatically Sealed From Public View Under Connecticut Practice Book § 25-59A.** "Entry 102.00, FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT JD-FM-6-LONG, filed 01/07/2021 by Plaintiff. Entry 103.00, FINANCIAL AFFIDAVIT JD-FM-6-LONG, filed 01/07/2021 by Plaintiff." [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [1/07/21](#)]

*NOTE: Long-form financial affidavits (form JD-FM-6-LONG) document each party's full income, assets, liabilities, and expenses. They are sealed from the public under PB § 25-59A and not viewable online or in person without a court order or party authorization.*

**A Separation Agreement Dated January 5, 2021 Was Filed With The Court And Incorporated By Reference Into The Final Judgment Of Dissolution.** "Entry 104.00, SEPARATION AGREEMENT, filed 01/07/2021 by Plaintiff; RESULT: Order 1/26/2021 HON ROBERT NASTRI. Entry 111.00, JUDGMENT FILE, 01/27/2021: 'Agreement dated 1-5-2021 incorporated by reference.'" [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [1/07/21](#)]

- **A Qualified Domestic Relations Order Dividing McCrorry's Retirement Assets Was Entered May 19, 2021, Confirming Pension- Or 401(k)-Style Retirement Funds Were Split As Part Of The Settlement.** "Entry 113.00, QUALIFIED DOMESTIC RELATIONS ORDER (QDRO), filed 05/13/2021; RESULT: Order 5/19/2021 HON ROBERT NASTRI." [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [5/19/21](#)]

*NOTE: A FOIA request is currently pending for a copy of the separation agreement.*

**January 2021: Judge Robert Nastri Entered A Judgment Of Uncontested Dissolution.** "Entry 112.00, JUDGMENT OF UNCONTESTED DISSOLUTION, 01/26/2021; RESULT: HON ROBERT NASTRI. Disposition Date: 01/26/2021. Disposition: JUDGMENT OF UNCONTESTED DISSOLUTION. Judge or Magistrate: HON ROBERT NASTRI." [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [1/26/21](#)]

- **The Court Recorded No Financial Disputes And No Parenting Disputes In The McCrorry Divorce.** "Financial Disputes: No; Parenting Disputes: No; RFTD Referral: No; RFTD Accepted: No." [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [Accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**The Public Online Docket Reflects No Motions To Seal, Restraining-Order Filings, Domestic-Violence Petitions, Or Post-Judgment Contempt Motions.** "Motions / Pleadings / Documents / Case Status: 21 entries total, dated 11/17/2020 through 05/13/2021. Last Action Date: 05/19/2021." [CT Judicial Branch, Civil/Family Case Look-up, [Accessed 5/9/26](#)]

## PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

### HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**In March 2000, McCrorry Was A Math Teacher At Fox Middle School In Hartford And Reacted To Then-Superintendent Anthony Amato's Application For The San Francisco Superintendency.** "Doug McCrorry, a math teacher at Fox Middle School, said a professional looking to better his status is not surprising. But he "was surprised that [Amato] would be doing it after only one year and all the effort he put into improving the school system." [...] McCrorry said he's concerned that the district's central office would be drained if Amato leaves. Several of Amato's colleagues from New York City -- where he served as superintendent for 12 years -- followed him to Hartford. "It's not just him," McCrorry said. "He brought really good people with him. I'm worried about them more.'" [Hartford Courant, 3/25/00]

**In March 2004, McCrorry Was Identified As Assistant Principal At Weaver High School In Hartford And Participated In The Inaugural "Connecticut Black Governor's Ball," Portraying The Black Governor Known As**

**Hercules From New London.** "It was the elaborate black governors' costumes that really transported one to another era. History was finally being told. This was the first 'Connecticut Black Governor's Ball,' but unlikely to be the last. From the mid-1700s to mid-1800s, after Connecticut voters elected its white governor, black communities voted their own black governors. It's a little-known aspect of state history because it was never taught in schools. [...] 'I'm loving it,' said Douglas McCrory, assistant principal at Weaver High School in Hartford, who portrayed the black governor known as Hercules from New London. McCrory and his counterparts were answering the call from Barbara Alleyne, president of the board of directors of the Rogers Cultural Center and an indefatigable worker. 'I didn't know anything about the black governors until Barbara Alleyne,' he said. 'It was an unknown, and I didn't mind learning about it.' When schoolchildren have seen him in costume and learned what it's all about, he said, 'it's given me a new-found respect.'" [Hartford Courant, 3/01/04]

**After His 2004 Primary Win, Hartford School Officials Made Clear McCrory Would Have To Balance His Day Job As Weaver High School Assistant Principal With His Legislative Duties And Could Not Use Vacation, Personal Or Sick Days For House Work.** "A day after winning the Democratic primary to run for a seat in the state House of Representatives, Weaver High School Assistant Principal Douglas McCrory was promising not to let either of his jobs impinge on the other -- assuming he wins the 7th House District election. Balancing both jobs will be a trick if he does. Superintendent of Schools Robert Henry said he will keep McCrory in his job and that he expects him to fulfill his role as assistant principal. And Gail Johnson, director of human resources, said McCrory won't be able to use vacation, personal or sick days for his work in the House. 'He has to be thinking about whether he can meet his obligations and meet his obligations there,' Johnson said. 'If not, he would need to approach us about a different job.' Weaver High School, with about 1,300 students, can be a stressful place to work, with administrators frequently busy with discipline problems. Last year, Principal Paul Stringer said he'd quit if he lost any of his assistant principals because of budget constraints. The school also is under pressure to improve student achievement because it is one of eight high schools in the state facing the most pressing sanctions under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. McCrory said he discussed his political aspirations with Weaver's principal, Stringer, before he launched his campaign. 'He was very understanding and very supportive.' And he said that he understands that the district expects him to work eight hours a day. But there may be room for flexibility, he said, because the high school is adding a second shift to the school -- high school that begins in the afternoon -- for students who are chronically truant, absent or in trouble. 'What I can't cover in the morning, I will cover in the evening,' McCrory said. When he's not in his office, he said, the three other assistant principals will be able to cover for him." [Hartford Courant, 8/12/04]

**2008: McCrory - Then Vice Principal At Bulkeley High School - Was Co-Chairman Of The Design Team For Hartford's Proposed All-Boys Benjamin E. Mays Academy, Calling It "A Public Safety Issue" Citing A "Double Achievement Gap" Between Hartford Boys And Both Their Suburban Peers And Hartford Girls.** "Hartford is poised to jump headlong into single-gender education, with an all-boys school being planned for the fall and a girls' school to follow a year later. They would become the first entirely single-gender public schools in the state, said Tom Murphy, spokesman for the state Department of Education. [...] Carving out a program and hiring a staff that concentrates on boys is not a luxury or a novelty but rather a critical necessity in Hartford, said Doug McCrory, co-chairman of the design team for the boys' school. 'This is a public-safety issue. The more kids we educate, the fewer kids we have on the street,' said McCrory, a Democratic state representative from Hartford and vice principal at Bulkeley High School. In a city conservative estimates say one out of every six children has at least one parent in prison, he said, the school system needs to help provide role models and an atmosphere keenly concentrated on education. McCrory points to what he calls a 'double achievement gap' facing city boys. There's the well known academic gap between Hartford children and their suburban peers, he said, and another lesser known gap between urban boys and girls. Scores on standardized state tests and district statistics on suspensions, expulsions and the graduation rate bear him out. Last school year, for example, 3,496 boys were suspended from Hartford schools - many multiple times - compared with 2,236 girls. Of 111 expulsions, 84 were boys and 27 were girls. By year's end, 733 students graduated from Hartford high schools: 331 boys and 402 girls." [Hartford Courant, 3/09/08]

- **McCrory Taught For About 10 Years At The Mays Program At Fox Middle School Where He And Other Male Teachers "Became Surrogate Fathers For Many Of The Students," According To The 2008 Article.** "When he taught for about 10 years at the Mays program at Fox Middle School, McCrory said he and other male teachers became surrogate fathers for many of the students, attending their sporting events and counseling them as parents might. Hilda Nieves credits Mays Academy with keeping her boys on track when their life at home fell apart. 'When my kids were in the program, I was divorcing my husband,' Nieves said. Her husband was drinking a lot and beating her, she said. 'He put me in the hospital for two weeks and he ended up in jail for two and a half years.' As Nieves recalls, McCrory took her boys aside and told them not to follow their father's path. 'Mr. McCrory told my sons that they can do better than their father if they stay in school and they learn. They got the message, and they stayed in school.'" [Hartford Courant, 3/09/08]

## WEAVER HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION

**In March 2011, McCrory Backed Delaying A \$150 Million Renovation Of Hartford's Weaver High School Into Three Career Academies, Saying The "Glory Days Of Weaver" Was What Constituents Wanted Back And They Disliked The Idea Of Career-Specific Academies.** "But state Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, who represents the Blue Hills, Upper Albany and Asylum Hill neighborhoods, said this week that he supported taking a step back. McCrory said he has heard from constituents who dislike the idea of career-specific academies and want Weaver to return to being a comprehensive high school. 'The glory days of Weaver - that's what the community wants to bring back,' said McCrory, a former vice principal at the school. [...] But the overhaul, which the school system had said could be completed by summer 2015, would come at an estimated cost of up to \$150 million. Funding would be heavily dependent on the state at a time of fiscal belt-tightening." [Hartford Courant, 3/10/11]

**In May 2011, McCrory Was Named To The 18-Member Weaver Renovation Steering Committee By Hartford Superintendent Steven Adamowski. McCrory Said It Was "Crucial" For Administrators To Hear From Residents Before Moving Forward With The Costly Project.** "A group of school system employees, parents, students and community members will begin meeting next month to develop plans for renovating the struggling Weaver High School in the North End by 2016. Superintendent Steven Adamowski named 18 members to the new Weaver renovation steering committee at Tuesday night's board of education meeting at Capital Preparatory Magnet School. [...] Other members include Lee Hunt, executive director of the Blue Hills Civic Association; Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford; and former board member Andrea Comer, who will represent the North Hartford Education Task Force, a separate, new community group that has been seeking residents' input on the renovation. Last December, administrators estimated that a renovation on the nearly 29-acre campus could cost upwards of \$150 million. Adamowski has since backed away from those figures and said no dollar amount would be given until the committee finishes its job. McCrory, whose district includes the Blue Hills neighborhood, said it was crucial for Adamowski and administrators to hear from residents as they move forward with a costly project. On its own, the North Hartford Education Task Force has gathered about 1,000 survey responses from the community, McCrory said." [Hartford Courant, 5/18/11]

**At An April 2013 Public Meeting On Weaver High's Future, McCrory Drew Applause For Demanding A Guarantee That Weaver Would Not Become A Regional Magnet School Drawing Half Its Enrollment From Suburbs, Saying "Once You Go Magnet... You Lose Your School."** "Community advocates and residents worried about the future of Weaver High School met with school and city officials Thursday night to air their concerns. One question stirred the crowd: Will a renovated Weaver become a regional magnet school that draws half its enrollment from the suburbs? State Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, raised the issue and offered a challenge that elicited applause from dozens of people in the Northend Senior Center. 'Something needs to be said tonight to guarantee this community that Weaver' will not be converted to a magnet, McCrory said. 'Once you go magnet... you lose your school.' The proposed \$100 million Weaver renovation awaiting state approval estimates an enrollment of 1,354 students in three specialized programs. The student body at Weaver has been shrinking, however, with fewer than 500 city students attending two academies (culinary arts, journalism and media), in a 370,000-square-foot building that was meant for more than 2,000 high-schoolers. Hartford is asking the state to cover 80 percent of construction costs. McCrory, an assistant principal for a Capitol Region Education Council magnet school, noted that the state offers 95 percent reimbursement for magnet school construction." [Hartford Courant, 4/19/13]

**In August 2019, After A \$133 Million Renovation Set To Total \$142 Million, McCrory Toured The Reopened Weaver High School. The Project Was 95% State-Reimbursed Because Weaver Now Houses A Magnet Performing Arts High School Under Sheff v. O'Neill. McCrory Said: "You Can't Mention Hartford Without Mentioning Weaver High School."** "More than 15 years after he began fighting for the future of Weaver High School, state Sen. Douglas McCrory got to see it. It looks like butcher-block tables in a set-design workshop, like wide windows pouring light into classrooms and a media center where students will want to learn, McCrory found as he and a small group of community members toured the new Weaver campus Monday, just before Hartford's first day of school. Most importantly, it looks nothing like the Weaver where McCrory served as vice principal in 2003 and 2004, a Brutalist, institutional-style building that was deprived for years of resources despite the pleas of a steadfast contingent of Weaver-loyal community members, alumni, parents and neighborhood groups. It was because of that group that Weaver closed its doors five years ago for renovations and reopens, unrecognizable, on Tuesday following a \$133 million renovation. 'Everybody would have been impacted by it closing,' McCrory said Monday as he walked the halls of the new campus. 'You can't mention Hartford without mentioning Weaver High School. To close a high school like that, it wasn't going to happen. It didn't make sense.' The project will total \$142 million once the expansion of the Doc Hurley Field House gymnasium is complete in January or February, according to Konstantinos Diamantis, director of the state Office of School Construction Grants and Review. The state will reimburse up to 95% of the cost because the campus is now home to Richard J. Kinsella Performing Arts

High School, a magnet school that enrolls both city and suburban students under Connecticut's Sheff v. O'Neill desegregation agreement." [Hartford Courant, 8/27/19]

## DOC HURLEY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

**After A November 2013 State Probe Of The Doc Hurley Scholarship Foundation Revealed The Charity Had Lost Most Of Its \$1.7M Endowment, McCrory Volunteered To Serve On The Foundation's Board Of Trustees And Said He Wanted To Help Save The Reputation Of A Personal Role Model.** "Hartford leaders are also working on ideas to rescue the scholarship program. Rep. Douglas McCrory, whose district includes the city's North End, said that he plans to reach out to community members to discuss resurrecting the foundation and saving the reputation of a man he considers a personal role model. He also volunteered to serve on the organization's board of trustees. McCrory said Hurley has been a giant in Hartford for mentoring youth about the importance of education and helping needy students attend college. Hurley, a former Weaver High School standout athlete who later became a school administrator, began raising money and giving out scholarships in the 1970s. Forty years later, the Doc Hurley foundation has helped more than 400 students pay for college. 'It's very, very disappointing to see what he started years ago get to a place where it is right now,' said McCrory, a Hartford Democrat. 'His reputation and everything he stands for -- that's his legacy. And his legacy cannot be tarnished. It just can't ... We need to fix this now.'" [Hartford Courant, 11/05/13]

**In December 2013, After State Investigators Found The Doc Hurley Scholarship Foundation Had "No Indication... Of Any Substantial Assets" Despite Holding \$1M In 2007, McCrory Said People In The Community Approached Him About Creating A New Scholarship Fund In Hurley's Name, Including One Pledge Of \$12,000.** "Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, said Wednesday night that several people in the community had approached him recently about raising money to create a new scholarship fund in Doc Hurley's name, including one person who has pledged to donate \$12,000. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has also offered its organizational support, McCrory said. Doc Hurley has been a role model and mentor 'for generations,' said McCrory, whose district includes the North End. 'He has provided inspiration, dedication and example-setting for young people in the city of Hartford, especially young men from north Hartford. He is that guy.'" [Hartford Courant, 12/19/13]

**In September 2016, McCrory Pitched The Idea For A 7-Foot Bronze Statue Of "Doc" Hurley And Pursued \$250,000 In State Bonding For It Through The Urban Act Grants Program. McCrory Defended The Spending: "I'm Very Conservative With My Asks From The State Of Connecticut. I've Probably Asked For Bonding Money For Maybe Half A Million To A Million Dollars In The 12 Years I've Been Here."** "State Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, pitched the idea for the statue and pursued funding, which is expected to come from the state's Urban Act Grants program. The State Bond Commission approved borrowing \$250,000 for the project in July. 'Doc is a known legend in the city of Hartford,' McCrory said. 'He was an educator, a scholar, an athlete. He's renowned in our community and I just felt that we should honor him with a statue.' State Republicans criticized the move in July, saying Connecticut was borrowing too much money while facing 'record levels of debt.' 'There are a number of items on the [bond commission] agenda that give me great concern, including money for indoor murals, more money for the Connecticut Tennis Center and money for statues,' Rep. Chris Davis, R-Ellington, told The Courant. 'These are things that probably shouldn't be done during these tough fiscal times.' But McCrory defended his plan, saying the Hurley statue is one of 'a number of projects' approved by the state, and only cost 'a small amount.' 'Look, I'm very conservative with my asks from the state of Connecticut,' he said. 'I've probably asked for bonding money for maybe half a million to a million dollars in the 12 years I've been here. So I'm very fiscally responsible when I ask the state to do things. I just felt that this was a project that was very worthwhile.' McCrory said he settled on the \$250,000 price tag after exploring similar projects in other towns." [Hartford Courant, 9/13/16]

**In October 2016, Hartford City Council Approved The \$250,000 Doc Hurley Statue Project. A Bond Request Form Submitted By McCrory In May 2015 Originally Sought \$225,000 And Listed The City Of Hartford As A Source Of Other Funding - Although City Leaders Said They Were Never Approached About Contributing.** "Council members on Monday approved the project, which is supported by \$250,000 in state funds. Drafts of the plan show the statue was headed for the corner of Greenfield and Ridgefield streets, but officials said the location could shift due to the recommended closure of nearby Martin Luther King Jr. School. [...] State Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, pitched the idea for the statue and pursued funding, which is expected to come from the state's Urban Act Grants program. The State Bond Commission approved borrowing \$250,000 for the project in July. Some Republicans state lawmakers condemned the move, saying Connecticut was borrowing too much money while facing 'record levels of debt.' Council members were quick to note Monday that no city funds would be used for the statue, a claim echoed by Mayor Luke Bronin. A bond request form submitted in May 2015 shows McCrory originally was seeking \$225,000 in state financing for the statue. He listed the 'City of Hartford' as 'sources of other funding for this project' in the application. But city leaders say they were never approached about making a contribution. McCrory ultimately asked for and was granted \$250,000 in state bonding.

State Reps. Brandon McGee, Matthew Ritter and Angel Arce, along with Sen. Eric Coleman, are named as 'supporters' of the project in the application." [Hartford Courant, 10/26/16]

## BLUE HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### APRIL–JULY 2025: BLUE HILLS WIRE THEFT & DECD SUSPENSION

#### THE \$300,000 WIRE THEFT GOES PUBLIC

**On April 22, 2025, CT Public Reported Blue Hills Civic Association Was The Victim Of A \$300,000 Wire Transfer Theft Which Forced The Nonprofit To Lay Off Staff And Eventually Shut Down.** "BHCA was the victim of a wire transfer theft of \$300,000, which forced them to shut down; similarly, the Prosperity Foundation, run by Minority Business Initiative board member Howard K. Hill, lost \$200,000 in another wire transfer." [CT Public, 4/22/25]

### MCCRORY'S ROLE AND THE THREE-MONTH REPORTING DELAY

**An April 2025 CT Insider Investigation Revealed McCrory Had Won Legislative Approval Of A \$5 Million Federal Pandemic Aid Allocation To The Blue Hills Civic Association - A Hartford Nonprofit In His District - Whose Executive Director Vicki Gallon Clark Reached Out To McCrory Multiple Times During A Three-Month Delay In Reporting An Alleged \$300,000 Cyber Theft.** "Leaders of a Hartford nonprofit that runs a youth summer job program and other community improvement initiatives waited months to notify state officials of an alleged cyber theft of \$300,000 in taxpayer-funded grants, according to records obtained by CT Insider. The three-month delay by the Blue Hills Civic Association appears to have violated a contractual requirement to notify state government officials within about two weeks of any suspected theft, the records show. When Connecticut officials were notified of the delayed reporting in late March, the state suspended millions of dollars in public funding to the nonprofit, ordered the association to pause further spending and then demanded it return any unspent state funding. [...] The stolen funds came from a \$5 million allocation of federal pandemic relief aid that the state's Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) committed to award the association. [...] During the monthlong delay in reporting the situation to DECD officials and the nonprofit's governing board, Clark reached out multiple times to state Sen. Doug McCrory, who won legislative approval for the state to direct the \$5 million in federal pandemic funding to the association, which is located in his district, according to a timeline of events an attorney for the nonprofit submitted to state officials." [Connecticut Post, 4/24/25]

**Per The April 2025 CT Insider Investigation, The Blue Hills Civic Association's Attorney Told State Officials That CFO Tom Sussman Was Told By ED Vicki Gallon Clark Not To Notify Anyone About The Theft Because "McCrory Had Advised Her Not To Do So Until An FBI Investigation Into The Cyber Theft Was Completed." McCrory Denied The Claim, Saying "Hell No."** "The timeline does not detail all of those communications between Clark and McCrory. But, the association's attorney told state officials earlier this month that Sussman said he was told by Clark not to notify anyone because McCrory had advised her not to do so until an FBI investigation into the cyber theft was completed. McCrory denied that claim. When asked Tuesday by a CT Insider reporter if he had advised nonprofit leaders not to tell state officials or association governing board members about the cyber theft, McCrory said: 'Hell no. I have a 20 year relationship with them. If I would have known there was a problem about wire fraud, I would have notified them.' Reached Tuesday, both Clark and Sussman declined to comment. Kaydian Reid, chair of the association's board, did not respond to requests for comment." [Connecticut Post, 4/24/25]

### SCALE OF PUBLIC FUNDING TO BLUE HILLS

**The Blue Hills Civic Association Had Received About \$13 Million In Public Funding From The State Over The Two Years Before The April 2025 Disclosure - With State Grants Awarded To The Nonprofit Increasing From \$2.3 Million In 2023 To \$8 Million In 2025. The Most Recent Available Tax Statement (2022) Showed Government Grants Accounted For About 85% Of The Nonprofit's Revenue.** "The nonprofit has received about \$13 million in public funding from the state over the last two years, but it is unclear how much remains unspent. [...] The association has long relied heavily on government grants to fund its operations. The organization's most recent available tax statement, which covers 2022, shows the organization spent \$3.3 million that year and government grants accounted for about 85% of the nonprofit's revenue. In more recent years, state spending records show the amount of state grants awarded to the nonprofit has increased from \$2.3 million in 2023 to \$8 million in 2025." [Connecticut Post, 4/24/25]

### STATE SUSPENSION AND MASS LAYOFFS

**The April 2025 BHCA Theft Disclosure Resulted In Connecticut DECD Suspending Millions In Public Funding To The Nonprofit, Ordering The Association To Pause Further Spending, And Demanding Return Of Unspent State Funds. The Nonprofit Then Terminated Nearly All 30 Staffers Via Email On April 8.** “When Connecticut officials were notified of the delayed reporting in late March, the state suspended millions of dollars in public funding to the nonprofit, ordered the association to pause further spending and then demanded it return any unspent state funding. Those moves prompted the nonprofit to swiftly terminate nearly all of its 30 person staff. [...] In late March, when state officials were first informed of the alleged theft, DECD told its staff not to send the organization any more state funding the association was expecting until the state agency was assured proper procedures were in place to avoid more theft. At the time, DECD had about \$9.5 million earmarked to send to the nonprofit. [...] On April 8, nearly all the staff at the nonprofit was notified over email by Reid, the board chair, that they were being immediately terminated ‘due to unforeseen financial challenges.’” [Connecticut Post, 4/24/25]

## **AUGUST 2025: FEDERAL PROBE GOES PUBLIC**

### **FEDERAL SUBPOENAS REVEAL MCCRORY AS A TARGET**

**On August 1, 2025, The Hartford Courant Reported That Federal Prosecutors Had Served Subpoenas In A Wide-Ranging Grand Jury Investigation Into Tens Of Millions In Hartford Nonprofit Funding, With McCrory And His “Associate” Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin Among Those Believed To Be Targets.** “Federal authorities have opened a wide-ranging investigation into how tens of millions of dollars are being distributed among and spent by an array of nonprofit social service organizations operating in Hartford. Federal prosecutors served subpoenas associated with the grand jury investigation last week, resulting in a flurry of calls to defense lawyers late in the week and over the weekend. Among those believed to be targets of the investigation, according to subpoenas and other sources, is state Sen. Douglas McCrory, a Bloomfield Democrat whose district includes north Hartford. McCrory declined in a text message earlier this week to discuss the matter. Also named in subpoenas is McCrory associate Sonserae Cicero Hamlin, who runs a wide ranging consulting business offering advice to clients on subjects as disparate as human resources and legalized marijuana sales. Cicero Hamlin declined to discuss the matter, but her company is said to have provided consulting services to at least three Hartford nonprofits named in subpoenas, according to people active in the city’s charitable giving circles. According to people familiar with the early stages of the investigation, FBI agents also have asked questions about the highly competitive and expensive application process for obtaining state licenses to operate legalized marijuana cultivation and retail sales businesses. A subpoena is a request for information and not an accusation or charge. The U.S. Attorney’s office in New Haven, which issued the grand jury subpoenas, refused to discuss the investigation. The subpoenas are signed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Francis, who leads the office’s financial fraud and public corruption unit.” [Hartford Courant, 8/01/25]

**Hartford Courant Reporting Established That State Officials Said Financial Controls Loosened During The ARPA Influx, And “Influential Political Figures At The Capitol, Among Them McCrory, Were Able To Play An Outsized Role In Directing To What Nonprofits Grant Money Was Distributed.”** “A flood of government grant money - in addition to millions more from private charitable and business groups - has poured into state capitols like Hartford and from there to nonprofits since Congress enacted the American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA, in 2021, which sent \$350 billion to state and local governments to support COVID pandemic recovery measures. State government officials have said financial controls loosened as the increased funding arrived from Washington and influential political figures at the Capitol, among them McCrory, were able to play an outsized role in directing to what nonprofits grant money was distributed. Among other things, investigators are looking at how decisions were made to award funds to certain nonprofit agencies and whether conditions may have been placed on grant awards, such as instructions concerning who to hire, according to people familiar with the events and the inquiry.” [Hartford Courant, 8/01/25]

### **LAMONT CONFIRMS STATE COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL PROBE**

**On August 2, 2025, Gov. Ned Lamont Said State Officials Were Cooperating With The Federal Grand Jury Probe, Saying Officials Had Held Payments Going To The Nonprofits Going Back To April “Doing Everything We Can On The Side Of Caution.” Lamont Said The Investigation Concerned \$800,000 - Including \$300,000 From The State - That Disappeared In Wire Transfers In 2023 And 2024.** “Gov. Ned Lamont said Friday that state officials are cooperating with a federal grand jury investigation of possible irregularities in the way tens of millions of dollars has been distributed to and spent by nonprofit social service organizations operating in Hartford. ‘Look, we are working with the feds on this in a totally transparent and open way to help them get to the bottom of this,’ Lamont said. ‘The question is, regarding some not for profits, we found out early on that they were having some problems with some of their payments.’”

Either they were being ripped off or something else was going on.’ The governor was referring to as much as \$800,000 - of which \$300,000 came from the state - that disappeared during attempts by non profits to transfer funds by wire in 2023 and 2024. [...] Lamont said that, after learning of the intercepted wire transfer of state funds, the state cut off funding to a major city nonprofit, the Blue Hills Civic Association, which was attempting to move money to My People, another local nonprofit organization. ‘We held our payments going to these nonprofits going back I think April, doing everything we can on the side of caution,’ Lamont said.” [Hartford Courant, 8/02/25]

## THE SONSERAE CICERO-HAMLIN CONNECTION EMERGES

**On August 6, 2025, The Connecticut Mirror Reported That A Federal Grand Jury Subpoenaed “All Documents Concerning Any Personal Or Non-Professional Relationship Between Douglas McCrory And Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin,” Who Controls SHEBA Resource Center And Three Other Companies. McCrory Sat On The Minority Business Initiative Advisory Council That Directed Money To SHEBA.** “A federal grand jury is probing state Sen. Douglas McCrory’s entanglement with a web of nonprofits, corporations and foundations that received and spent millions of dollars in state funding since 2020, as well as his relationship with a woman who runs several of the entities that received money. The grand jury subpoenas, seeking emails, financial records and other information, were issued less than a week ago to the state Department of Economic and Community Development and the state’s Minority Business Initiative Advisory Council, which is focused on assisting minority-owned businesses in the state. The grand jury also subpoenaed ‘All documents concerning any personal or non-professional relationship between Douglas McCrory and Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin,’ who is the director of several of the organizations named in the subpoena. McCrory, of Hartford, represents the 2nd District in the Connecticut Senate. [...] Cicero-Hamlin controls the Society of Human Engagement and Businesses Alignment, LLC; SHEBA, LLC; SHEBA Resource Center Inc., and SHEBA Consulting LLC, according to state records. In addition to the \$400,000 received by SHEBA Resource Center, The Connecticut Mirror found that Cicero-Hamlin also convinced the state’s two U.S. senators, Democrats Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, to twice sign off on requests for \$3.5 million in federal earmarks. None have been delivered. [...] CT Inside Investigator published a story this week that reported that McCrory personally pushed for SHEBA to receive \$300,000 from the council in 2022 in return for the company running a certification program focused on helping small businesses scale up.” [Connecticut Mirror, 8/06/25]

**Per The Connecticut Mirror, McCrory And Cicero-Hamlin Met With Sen. Chris Murphy In January 2024 At The Funeral Home Owned By Howard K. Hill, Who Sits On The Minority Business Initiative Advisory Council With McCrory And Runs The Prosperity Foundation. Murphy Subsequently Posted On Instagram About The Meeting.** “McCrory was also involved in discussions that went beyond state funding, the CT Mirror confirmed this week. McCrory and Cicero-Hamlin met with Murphy in January 2024 at the funeral home owned by Howard K. Hill, who sits on the Minority Business Initiative advisory council with McCrory and is also the executive director of the Prosperity Foundation, one of the nonprofits named in the subpoena. Hill declined to comment Wednesday. The meeting was to discuss getting Murphy’s assistance in securing federal funding opportunities for North Hartford, the senator said on social media at the time. Murphy publicized the meeting in an Instagram post: ‘Thanks to @senatormccrory for bringing together a table of leaders in Hartford’s north end this morning to talk about how to get more federal funding into this historic, vibrant neighborhood.’ Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin in front of the former St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church on Market Street in Hartford. [...] Months later, Cicero-Hamlin sought federal money through Murphy and Blumenthal to transform a former Roman Catholic Church she had just purchased for \$10 on Market Street in Hartford into new offices for her companies. She also requested operational funding.” [Connecticut Mirror, 8/06/25]

**Connecticut Mirror Reporting Showed Cicero-Hamlin Sought \$3.5 Million Through Sens. Murphy And Blumenthal To Relocate Her SHEBA Resource Center To A Former Roman Catholic Church She Purchased For \$10 On Market Street In Hartford. The Senators Approved Both 2024 And Spring 2025 Requests; The Money Was Never Delivered Due To Congressional Inaction.** “Cicero-Hamlin’s initial access to public funding came in 2022 with the creation of a nonprofit with the same name as her for-profit ventures, SHEBA. The Sheba Resource Center got a \$150,000 state grant in the 2023 fiscal year, which began July 1, 2022, and grants of \$100,000 and \$150,000 in the following two years. Most were federal pass-through funds. Her nonprofit status allowed her to apply to the offices of Blumenthal and Murphy for congressionally directed spending, which essentially are earmarks controlled by senators. For-profits are ineligible. She sought \$3.5 million to relocate her SHEBA Resource Center to the former church at 121-125 Market St. in Hartford. The senators signed off on the application, but the Appropriations Committee reduced the request to \$800,000. The money never came due to the failure of Congress to pass a budget. This spring, the senators approved an identical \$3.5 million request for the next fiscal year. But the senators have asked the Appropriations Committee not to consider it, due to the disclosures related to the subpoenas, Murphy’s office said Wednesday. Cicero-Hamlin claimed support for the project from the city of Hartford and seven other entities, including several covered in the federal

subpoenas: Blue Hills Civic Association, Prosperity Foundation, Upper Albany Collaborative and the Legacy Foundation.” [Connecticut Mirror, 8/06/25]

## THE COHABITATION QUESTION

**On August 7, 2025, Hartford Courant Reported “Multiple Friends And Acquaintances” Said McCrory And Cicero-Hamlin “Recently Lived Together In A \$780,000 Home In Bloomfield.” McCrory Sat On The Minority Business Initiative Advisory Council During A Years-Long Period When It Considered Millions In Grants Or Loans That Went To Cicero-Hamlin’s Business.** “In particular, federal prosecutors want ‘all documents concerning any personal or non professional relationship’ between two people who have emerged as major players in the extensive Hartford nonprofit scene, state Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Bloomfield, and Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin, who operates a nonprofit consulting business through something called the SHEBA Resource Center. Multiple friends and acquaintances of McCrory and Cicero-Hamlin said that, recently, the two lived together in a \$780,000 home in Bloomfield. The state on Wednesday disclosed the two subpoenas the grand jury served late last week on the state Department of Economic and Community Development and the Minority Business Initiative, the business development program that operates within the department under the guidance of a board of outside advisors. State records obtained by the Courant show that McCrory sat on the advisory board during a years-long period when it was considering millions of dollars of grants or loans that went to a Cicero-Hamlin business. Among the materials sought by the grand jury are ‘all agendas and minutes of Minority Business Initiative Advisory Council meetings.’ McCrory and Cicero-Hamlin have declined comment.” [Hartford Courant, 8/07/25]

**Per Hartford Courant August 2025 Reporting, In April 2022 The Minority Business Initiative Approved A \$300,000 Grant To One Of Cicero-Hamlin’s SHEBA Companies. Simultaneously, DECD Agreed To Pay \$5 Million To Girls For Technology, Which Then Paid SHEBA The First Of Two \$1 Million Installments For “Contract Work” Whose Nature “Was Not Clear From The Records.”** “Such a redirection of state money took place beginning in April 2022, when the Minority Business Initiative approved a \$300,000 grant to one of Cicero-Hamlin’s SHEBA-related companies. During the same period, the Department of Economic and Community Development agreed to pay \$5 million to the nonprofit Girls for Technology, created to ‘empower women in tech and entrepreneurship,’ which in turn paid SHEBA the first of what were to be two, \$1 million installments, records show. Records produced by the department show that the \$1 million was to cover work SHEBA had done as a contractor for Girls for Technology. The nature of the contract work was not clear from the records and officials at the department were not immediately able to provide an explanation. Officials at SHEBA and Girls for Technology declined to comment or were not available.” [Hartford Courant, 8/07/25]

## “I DID NOTHING ILLEGAL” – MCCRORY’S FIRST DENIALS

**In May 2025 CT Insider Interviews Conducted Before The Public FBI Probe Disclosure, McCrory And Cicero-Hamlin Both Refused To Define Their Relationship, Denied Living Together, And Said Neither Had Benefited Financially. McCrory Said: “I Did Nothing Illegal.”** “Federal investigators at the Department of Justice are probing the relationship between state Sen. Doug McCrory and Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin, whose businesses and nonprofit landed millions from the state. During separate interviews with CT Insider in May – as rumors swirled around Hartford about a federal investigation – both McCrory and Cicero-Hamlin refused to define the nature of their relationship, denied living together, and said neither has benefited financially because of that undefined relationship. ‘That’s my personal business. I might have multiple girlfriends. I might not want the public to know who I am sleeping with and where I’m going. I’m not touching anything about my personal life,’ McCrory said during a wide ranging 30 minute interview in his office at the state Capitol. ‘I’ll say one thing: I did nothing illegal.’” [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

**CT Insider Reporting Showed A “Steady Flow Of Day-To-Day Involvement With DECD Staff From McCrory To Direct Funding To Cicero-Hamlin’s Organizations And Blue Hills Civic Association,” Where Cicero-Hamlin’s Company Was Paid \$600,000 In Consulting Fees In Fiscal Year 2024. DECD Officials Sought His Guidance On The Mechanics Of Delivering Millions To Her Organizations.** “Those records show a steady flow of day-to-day involvement with DECD staff from McCrory to direct funding to Cicero-Hamlin’s organizations and Blue Hills Civic Association, where tax filings show her company was paid \$600,000 to do consulting work in fiscal year 2024. Those records also show DECD officials keeping him in the loop and seeking his guidance about the mechanics of delivering the millions to her organizations and Blue Hills. ‘The Senator wants to use \$2.5m for the purchase of a building. This is different from the application they have already submitted,’ Katie Stargardt at DECD wrote the team overseeing federal stimulus spending being directed to Blue Hills in July 2024. ‘Can you give me a buzz? BHCA and Sen. McCrory calling me about some unspent money?’ DECD Deputy Commissioner Matthew Pugliese messaged another employee at the agency last August. That employee, Rhonda Olisky, a few months earlier flagged concerns about the massive uptick in state aid going to Blue Hills and the lack of oversight. ‘I am concerned for us/DECD, as the ones who are administering these funds. I think we

need to take a closer look at the financial information reported by this organization / do our due diligence' the longtime DECD employee wrote top officials at the agency." [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

## **BLUE HILLS AS A PASS-THROUGH CONDUIT**

**CT Insider Found That Most Of The Millions Sent To Blue Hills Were Re-Routed To Other Nonprofits, A Process That Bypassed State Auditing, Oversight, And Open Bidding Requirements. Records Showd McCrory And Blue Hills' ED "Identified Subgrantees; Award Notification And Amounts Provided To Subgrantees." Many Subgrantees Were Named In The Federal Subpoenas.** "While it is common for state legislators to land funding in the state budget for their favorite organizations – it's part of their job – what is unusual, however, is that records show most of the millions sent to Blue Hills were then re-routed to other nonprofits, a process that bypasses state auditing, oversight, and open bidding requirements. Records show McCrory and the executive director of Blue Hills 'identified subgrantees; award notification and amounts provided to subgrantees.' Many of those subgrantees have been named in the federal subpoenas the Lamont Administration has received. None of the records provided to CT Insider so far shows McCrory financially gained personally from the millions he landed for her organizations and Blue Hills. There are no land records in the communities he represents in the state Senate showing he or Cicero-Hamlin have purchased residential property and his statement of financial interest that he filed in May with the Office of State Ethics does not disclose any new assets." [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

**CT Insider Detailed That A \$2.5 Million State Bond Commission Grant Approved In October 2023 - Earmarked For Rebuilding Together Hartford To Help 100 Homeowners - Was Routed Through Blue Hills, Which Planned To Keep 80% For Itself And Send Only \$450,000 To Rebuilding Together. No Agreement Was Ever Reached, And Rebuilding Together Got None Of The Money.** "Records show the head of a local non-profit that pays for roof repairs, hot water heaters and other home repairs for low-income homeowners across Hartford questioned why the \$2.5 million the State Bond Commission approved in October 2023 had to pass through Blue Hills – and why Blue Hills was planning to keep 80% of that money. Rebuilding Together Hartford also insisted that if it had to go through Blue Hills, they needed to sign a legal agreement on the amount and the terms of the funding. 'I didn't realize that for this grant from DECD ... RTH would have to prove to BHCA that we can do what we have been doing for 30 years. Is this what must be done for RTH to see the MOU and begin accessing the funds? We have residents queued up and awaiting our services,' Janice Castle, the president of RTH's governing board, wrote Blue Hills officials. [...] The Blue Hills' grant application for the release of the \$2.5 million approved by the bond commission didn't spell out that their organization was planning to keep any of that funding – and records show the proposed agreement that Blue Hills officials attempted to enter into with Rebuilding Together would have sent only \$450,000 of the \$2.5 million to non-profit to do the home repairs. 'BHCA stated they are now developing a housing program of their own and were using the remaining funding for that program,' a DECD staffer emailed Pugliese. In the end, an agreement was never reached and Rebuilding Together Hartford never got any of the money to help the 100 homeowners that the funding was promised to help." [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

**Kamora Lee Herrinton, Who Operates Hartford's Kamora's Cultural Corner, Told CT Insider She Was Repeatedly Told By Others: "Come On Ma, If You Want Any Money This Is The Game You Have To Play."** "A handful of nonprofits or businesses from the North End of Hartford interviewed by CT Insider said to get money for their cause, this is the way it works. 'I've been told so many times, 'come on ma, if you want any money this is the game you have to play,'" Kamora Lee Herrinton, the owner of Kamora's Cultural Corner which provides culture understanding training to people across the region, said during an interview. A few years ago she said she landed a \$6,000 grant that McCrory took credit for helping facilitate, but it left her with a bad taste." [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

## **CICERO-HAMLIN'S BACKGROUND AND MCCRORY'S "PROUD" DEFENSE**

**Per CT Insider, Cicero-Hamlin "Grew Up In The Housing Projects In Hartford's South End And Was The Manager Of Human Resources For Walgreen's Hartford-Region Distribution Center In Windsor Until At Least Spring 2021." Her Oldest Organization, SHEBA (Society Of Human Engagement And Business Alignment), Was Opened In 2018.** "Cicero-Hamlin – who grew up in the housing projects in Hartford's South End and was the manager of human resources for Walgreen's Hartford-region distribution center in Windsor until at least spring 2021 – is the owner of four for-profit companies and one non-profit. The oldest of her organizations was opened in 2018, and is called SHEBA, the Society of Human Engagement and Business Alignment." [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

**Confronted With Records, McCrory Said He Was "Proud" He Successfully Routed Money To Cicero-Hamlin's Organizations: "She's Doing A Hell Of A Damn Job. People Come To Me And Ask, 'Can You Help Me?'... If I Can Get The Resources To Make Things Happen For Our Community, I'm Going To Do That. And That's What I Did."** "Asked whether McCrory directed the millions in state dollars to Cicero Hamlin's non-profit that helps small black and

brown business owners who are unbankable get forgivable state-funded loans or to her for-profit consulting company, the senator at first denied being directly involved in funneling money to any specific non-profit or business. 'I didn't direct money to any particular one organization,' said McCrory, whose district includes the North end of Hartford, one of the poorest communities in the country. 'I advocate for all organizations in my community. I survey what my community needs. I work with those nonprofits that can provide and deliver goods for our community.' Told there are public records that show his involvement directing money to her organizations – and that he specifically voted and advocated during a public meeting in 2022 for her to receive \$300,000 for the minority loans – said he was 'proud' that he successfully routed money to Cicero-Hamlin's organizations and others in his district. Cicero-Hamlin is listed as an owner of a home in East Hartford. Her consulting business lists a Hartford address and the remaining organizations she operates list East Hartford addresses, which are not in the senator's district. 'She's doing a hell of a damn job... I will just tell you she's doing bang up job. You can talk to anybody that came through her programs, the program she has: they love it, and they support and they want to see more of it. And I do too,' he said. 'People come to me and ask, 'Can you help me?' I ask them what they are going to do. I ask them what their budgets are. And if I can get the resources to make things happen for our community, I'm going to do that. And that's what I did.'" [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

## **HEDCO COMPLAINTS AND THE FORENSIC AUDIT**

**Despite SHEBA's \$300,000 In Minority Loan-Vetting Funding, HEDCO President Kim Hawkins Complained To Cicero-Hamlin And State Officials That Records Were "Regularly Missing Paperwork": "The Cash Flow Form Continues To Be An Issue, We Are Receiving Forms With No Income Or Income For One Or Two Months."**

"Records, however, show the \$300,000 in state funding her company received to help minority business owners prepare to apply for state-funded forgivable loans are regularly missing paperwork. 'The cash flow form continues to be an issue, we are receiving forms with no income or income for one or two months. The source and use of funds form doesn't align with the request, so we are left to guess what the usage of funds are for. In some instances we don't receive the form at all,' Kim Hawkins, president of HEDCO which underwrites the forgivable- and low-interest loans, emailed Cicero-Hamlin and state officials. 'As we discussed, SHEBA is to vet these documents and make sure that they are filled out correctly so that once we receive a full package, we can then move through the process. The delays in receiving a complete package and then having to decipher what is being requested, is creating more of a demand on staff than anticipated.'" [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

**Connecticut DECD Hired West Hartford-Based Clifton Larson Allen For \$152,000 To Conduct A Forensic Audit Into The Blue Hills Civic Association, Expected In Mid- To Late September 2025.** "While the feds investigate, the state has also hired Clifton Larson Allen, a financial consulting firm based in West Hartford for \$152,000 to do a forensic audit into Blue Hills Civic Association into whether the state aid was inappropriately spent. A spokesman for DECD said the agency expects to receive that audit in mid- to late-September. Records show state officials at DECD have struggled to provide oversight of the grants that Blue Hills claims it passed along to other nonprofits. When a DECD official asked in January on behalf of state auditors for the list of their subgrantees from the prior years, the executive director of Blue Hills pushed back. 'Why is this request being made at this time? What do we tell our sub-recipients since this condition was not a part of the MOU that was signed with them?' Vicki Gallon Clark responded." [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 8/08/25]

## **CANNABIS CONNECTIONS AND THE FOIA-BACKED MONEY TRAIL**

**In 2023, Henry Opened Hartford's First Legal Cannabis Retailer As The Social Equity Owner With Curaleaf And Greenwich Investors; McCrory And Mayor Bronin Both Attended The Grand Opening; The Shop Closed Without Notice In 2025.** "In 2023, Henry opened a legal cannabis shop in Hartford as the social equity owner under a joint venture with Curaleaf and Greenwich-based investors. At the time, Mayor Luke Bronin and McCrory both attended the grand opening. Two years later, the shop closed without explanation or notice. In June of 2025, the Hartford Courant reported that Henry was now chief operating officer of The Goods THC, a Hartford-based cannabis micro cultivator that obtained a license under the state's social equity licensing system." [Inside Investigator (citing CT Insider, Hartford Courant), 8/12/25]

**Documents Obtained Via FOIA Show McCrory Personally Advocating For \$300,000 In State Funds To Be Directed Toward Cicero, Plus Additional Funds For Her Consulting Company.** "Documents obtained by Inside Investigator through a Freedom of Information Act request that took a year and a half for DECD to fulfill show McCrory advocating for \$300,000 in state funds to be directed toward Cicero-Hamlin, as well as requesting that other funds be pushed toward her consulting company. SHEBA was also part of a \$5 million award to Girls for Technology." [Inside Investigator, 8/12/25]

## **BLUE HILLS BOARD CONCERNS AND THE "GIRLFRIEND" CONFLICT**

**Per An August 2025 Hartford Courant Investigation, Notes From A July 2024 Blue Hills Board Meeting Warned Of A “Conflict Of Interest” Because Cicero-Hamlin “Is His Girlfriend.” By August, Blue Hills Board Chair JoAnn Price Told The Executive Director It Was Her Wish For Cicero-Hamlin “Not To Be Involved” With Blue Hills Because “Doug Under Investigation.” Price Resigned From The Board In September.** “Almost immediately, McCrory’s relationship with Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin raised a red flag. The relationship, combined with decisions by Hartford’s Blue Hill’s Civic Association to send her \$1.7 million in grants and consulting fees, became a subject of concern among the association board at the venerable north Hartford nonprofit. Notes from a July 2024 Blue Hills board meeting warn of a ‘conflict of interest’ because Cicero-Hamlin ‘is his girlfriend.’ By early August, Blue Hills board Chairman JoAnn Price had told the organization’s executive director that it was her wish for Cicero-Hamlin ‘not to be involved’ with Blue Hills because ‘Doug under investigation,’ according to a variety of records and interviews with nonprofit officials. Price resigned from the Blue Hills board in September, at least in part, according to an associate, because of her concern about the Blue Hills decision to make Cicero-Hamlin’s two-year old nonprofit called SHEBA a subrecipient of a substantial portion of the grant money Blue Hills was receiving annually from the state.” [Hartford Courant, 8/17/25]

**Per Hartford Courant Reporting, Since Founding SHEBA In 2022, Cicero-Hamlin Collected More Than \$3 Million In Government Grants And Consulting Fees, With Blue Hills Paying SHEBA \$1.2 Million In Two \$600,000 Payments Plus \$250,000/Year At \$280/Hour For Consulting In 2022 And 2023.** “Since founding SHEBA in 2022, Cicero-Hamlin has collected more than \$3 million in government grants and consulting fees, according to a variety of records. [...] The Blue Hills Civic Association gave SHEBA at total of \$1.2 million in two, \$600,000 payments over fiscal 2024 and 2025 as a subrecipient of the \$5.5 million Blue Hills received from the state over each of the same two years, according to state and private nonprofit records. Internal Blue Hills Records show the \$600,000 payments to SHEBA were multiples larger than its payments to other nonprofits it chose as subrecipients. Only the Prosperity Foundation, a New Haven nonprofit founded by New Haven funeral service owner Howard Hill, received a greater amount, at \$1.1 million a year. The Blue Hills also paid SHEBA \$250,000 a year, at \$280 an hour, for consulting services on human resources issues in both 2022 and 2023. Among other things, SHEBA was paid to evaluate salaries paid to the 33 Blue Hills employees, provide management and leadership training, train the board of directors and update the employee handbook, according to a former senior Blue Hills official and a review of records.” [Hartford Courant, 8/17/25]

**Per The Independent Crumbie Law Group Investigation Of The October 2024 Wire Theft, Blue Hills ED Vicki Gallon-Clark Told Investigators That McCrory Told Her To “Delay Informing The State Until The FBI Investigation Was Complete.” McCrory Denied Doing So.** “An independent investigation of the intercepted transfer by the Crumbie Law Group of Hartford found that Blue Hills had been provided with wire instructions that modified the My People recipient’s data in a way that directed the funds to an unknown party. The Crumbie investigation found that Blue Hills reported the loss to the police and FBI almost immediately, but that Gallon-Clark decided not to tell the DECD because she wanted to speak first with McCrory, who was on vacation most of January. When she reached McCrory, Gallon-Clark said, he told her to delay informing the state until the FBI investigation was complete. McCrory denied doing so in remarks to reporters last spring. McCrory and Gallon-Clark recently declined to discuss the matter further.” [Hartford Courant, 8/17/25]

**Per The Crumbie Report, Blue Hills ED Gallon-Clark Said She Knew The Nonprofit Had Funds To Cover A Second \$300,000 Payment To My People “Because Of Decisions Made With McCrory About How To Distribute State Money”: “The Senator And I Sat Down In September And Decided As To The Amounts That Each (Subgrantee) Was Getting. We Knew Back In September That There Would Be Undesignated Money.”** “To cover the loss due to fraud, Gallon-Clark told the Crumbie group that she eventually issued a second, \$300,000 payment to My People. She said she knew Blue Hills had funds to cover the payment because of decisions made with McCrory about how to distribute state money among eligible nonprofits ‘The Senator and I sat down in September and decided as to the amounts that each (subgrantee) was getting,’ Gallon-Clark told the Crumbie group. ‘We knew back in September that there would be undesignated money.’ Asked why she initially notified McCrory of the loss rather than the Blue Hills board, she said it was because ‘he identified funding and ensured it got approved and directed to our agency.’” [Hartford Courant, 8/17/25]

**Per Hartford Courant Reporting, A Former Blue Hills Employee “Said That When She Started Working, She Mistook [McCrory] For A Co-Worker Because He Spent So Much Time In The Office.” Dozens Of Blue Hills Budget Worksheets Bear Hand-Written Notes Like “Per Conversations With Senator McCrory,” “Confirm With Doug,” “Allocation Via Senator McCrory,” Or “Per Doug Changes.”** “There are other signs that McCrory was able to influence decisions at Blue Hills. A former employee said that when she started working, she mistook him for a co-worker because he spent so much time in the office. She said staff sometimes had difficulty meeting with Gallon-Clark because of the time she spent with McCrory. Dozens of budget worksheets and related documents have titles or bear hand-written notes reading ‘per conversations with Senator McCrory,’ ‘confirm with Doug,’ ‘Allocation via Senator McCrory,’ ‘per Doug changes,’ or something similar.” [Hartford Courant, 8/17/25]

## THE BLOOMFIELD SUMMER BRIDGE DIVERSION

**An August 2025 Hartford Courant Investigation Detailed The Bloomfield Summer Bridge Jobs Program Funding Diversion - In Which \$100,000 Promised To The Town Was Quietly Redirected To Cicero-Hamlin's SHEBA, Causing The Program To Run Without Promised State Money.** “The town of Bloomfield was surprised when a \$100,000 state grant it was promised for its successful summer jobs program failed to arrive. It was stunned when it learned the money had been quietly transferred to a new nonprofit now the subject of a federal investigation. Bloomfield's missing \$100,000 had been quietly redirected, by an opaque transaction at the state Legislature, to the Society of Human Engagement and Business Alignment, known as SHEBA, the new nonprofit at the center of the grand jury investigation into the disbursement of tens of millions of dollars of state grants. [...] Last week, FBI agents were in Bloomfield asking questions about the on-and-off financing in 2023 for the town's jobs training program, known as Summer Bridge. Town Manager Alvin D Schwapp Jr. acknowledged the funding interruption in a statement. [...] When it began, the program involved a commitment of at least two years, according to a variety of officials. McCrory arranged a \$100,000 grant through the state Department of Education for year one and promised to arrange state financing for a second year, an official involved in the program said.” [Hartford Courant, 8/24/25]

**Per The Hartford Courant, The \$100,000 Bloomfield Summer Bridge Diversion Was Set In Motion By A Letter From Sen. Catherine Osten, Co-Chair Of Appropriations, Instructing The Department Of Education To Move The Money To SHEBA. Education Department Emails Showed: “FYI - Senator McCrory May Follow Up On This As He Has Called Laura Already.”** “The transfer of funds was set in motion by a letter from state Sen Catherine Osten, co-chair of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee, instructing the state Department of Education to move the \$100,000 earmarked for Bloomfield to SHEBA. Osten said last week that her letter was written in response to a routine legislative spending request, one of many prepared by staff and placed before her. She said the letter was based on an address list showing where money should be directed. ‘These are normal things that we have going on every year,’ Osten said. ‘Legislative staff prepared the list. These are programs that need clarification. It is not unusual for this to happen. Most legislators, Doug included, don't contact me. I get a list from staff that are working to put everything together. I never heard about Bloomfield.’ Osten's letter set in motion a flurry of email correspondence among education department employees who were under the impression that the transfer of money to SHEBA was to be carried out quickly and that McCrory had taken an interest. In addition to holding a Senate leadership position, McCrory is co-chair of the education committee. ‘Sounds like it is on the fast track,’ one email said. Said another: ‘FYI - Senator McCrory may follow up on this as he has called Laura already.’” [Hartford Courant, 8/24/25]

## ARPA AND THE EARMARKS BOOM

**An August 2025 Connecticut Mirror Investigation Found Funding For Blue Hills Civic Association “Tripled To \$1.32 Million One Year, Then Quadrupled To \$5.62 Million The Next” Through ARPA Money. The Connecticut Legislature's Democratic Majority Then Doubled Down With \$39 Million In “Various Grants” Earmarks In The 2026-27 Biennial Budget Adopted In June 2025.** “A few nonprofits serving constituents of Sen. Doug McCrory of Hartford did extraordinarily well when COVID relief arrived through the federal American Rescue Plan Act. Funding for one, the Blue Hills Civic Association, tripled to \$1.32 million one year, then quadrupled to \$5.62 million the next. The ARPA money was easy, flowed fast and came with a hard end date. It benefited the constituents of far more lawmakers than McCrory. And it whet the appetite for more. The FBI is now investigating McCrory's role in obtaining grants for nonprofits, and it comes during a time when Connecticut lawmakers are enjoying a golden age of grants that come with minimal vetting or transparency. As the ARPA gusher began to go dry — the last of the money was obligated last year and must be spent by Dec. 31, 2026 — the state legislature's Democratic majority tapped a new well: Appropriating nearly \$60 million over two biennial budget cycles for unrestricted grants to be distributed at their discretion. Earmarks, an endangered species after the arrival of the Great Recession of 2008 and start of decade-plus fiscal crisis in Connecticut, are flourishing. The two-year budget adopted in 2023 directed the state Department of Economic and Community Development to disburse \$17.9 million over two years from a line item labeled ‘various grants’ — an unheralded new source of earmarks. The new biennial budget adopted in June more than doubled it to nearly \$39 million.” [Connecticut Mirror, 8/31/25]

**Per CT Mirror, A Potential Federal Witness With Deep Familiarity With Hartford's Nonprofit Ecosystem Said FBI Investigators “First Were Interviewed By The FBI In 2023, After The ARPA Money Began Flowing” - Suggesting The Investigation Started Earlier Than The Public Disclosure In July 2025.** “So far, the FBI investigation appears to be narrow, focused on McCrory and his relationship with a woman who runs a nonprofit and consults for others, and with several nonprofits that have obtained state funding with his support. Earlier this month, federal prosecutors issued a subpoena seeking emails, financial records and other information from the DECD regarding McCrory and a dozen nonprofits and other entities, including three well-established with a presence in his district: Blue Hills Civic Association,

Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative and the YMCA of Greater Hartford. One potential witness, an executive with deep familiarity with Hartford's nonprofit ecosystem, told CT Mirror that they and others first were interviewed by the FBI in 2023, after the ARPA money began flowing. The person declined to be identified. The U.S. attorney's office declined to say when the investigation began." [Connecticut Mirror, 8/31/25]

## SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2025: RESIDENCY QUESTIONS & THE LEGACY FOUNDATION

### FBI INTERVIEW OF BLOOMFIELD HOMEOWNER

**In September 2025, FBI Investigators Interviewed Dana Higgins, The Out-Of-State Owner Of A Bloomfield Property With "Re-Elect McCrory" Signs In The 2024 Google Street View. A Package Bearing Cicero-Hamlin's Name Was Found On The Doorstep When CT Insider Visited.** "Federal investigators have interviewed the owner of a home in Bloomfield as they probe the relationship between state Sen. Doug McCrory and Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin, whose businesses and nonprofit have landed millions from the state. McCrory and Cicero-Hamlin have declined to define the nature of their relationship and denied living together. Sources told CT Insider that they have visited the Bloomfield home following an invitation from the duo. [...] During an interview Tuesday, an owner of the property in Bloomfield, Dana Higgins, said federal investigators reached out to her recently. 'I do not live there. I live in an entirely different state, and they knew that. They do their homework before they reach out to you,' said Higgins, who declined to say if McCrory or Cicero have lived there. 'It just has a significant legal impact, and I just want their attorneys to do what they need to do... It's a legal matter. I really do not want to confirm or deny it.' Higgin's Facebook page shows she is friends with Cicero-Hamlin and the senator. A Google Maps street view from 2024 of the property shows a re-elect McCrory sign in the front yard. No one answered the door when a CT Insider reporter knocked on the door of the Bloomfield home — but a package with Cicero-Hamlin's name was there waiting to be brought in." [News-Times (Danbury), 9/12/25]

### MCCRORY'S RESIDENCY DISCREPANCY

**Per CT Insider's September 2025 Investigation, McCrory Reports Living On Multiple Government Records At A Single-Family Hartford Blue Hills Home Owned By Him And Where His Ex-Wife (Probate Judge Foye Smith, Whom He Divorced Nearly 5 Years Ago) Also Reports Living - Despite Her Divorce Settlement Calling For Her To Move Out.** "On numerous government records, McCrory reports he lives in a single-family home in Hartford's Blue Hills neighborhood — the same address where his ex-wife, Probate Judge Foye Smith, reports living. The couple divorced nearly 5 years ago. Those records include campaign filings, financial disclosures, voting registration and voting history documents, and business registrations. Vehicle registration and property records don't provide any clarity where he lives. McCrory also does not have a vehicle registered in his name in any of the municipalities in his district — and has not paid property taxes on a vehicle in Hartford since 2017. No property tax bill is associated with his license plate number in Hartford or Bloomfield. He is not provided a vehicle for his job at the Capitol Region Education Council or as a state legislator. [...] McCrory and his ex-wife are each registered to vote from the same address in Blue Hills — and both have voted from that polling location in six elections since their divorce, including most recently last November, public records show. Their adult son is also registered to vote from that address and registers his consulting business from there with the Secretary of the State. City property records show the home is owned by McCrory, and their divorce settlement called for his ex-wife to move out of the home." [News-Times (Danbury), 9/12/25]

**CT Insider Found That Reporters Visited The Hartford Blue Hills Home McCrory Lists As His Residence "Multiple Times Over The Course Of The Last Two Weeks, Including During Evening, Early Morning, And Weekend Hours. No One Ever Answered The Door And Only Once Was A Car Parked There."** "Reporters with CT Insider visited the Blue Hills home multiple times over the course of the last two weeks, including during evening, early morning, and weekend hours. No one ever answered the door and only once was a car parked there. When Smith filed paperwork 15 months after her divorce to run for probate judge, she listed the Blue Hills address. She also lists that as her personal address for her private consulting company that she registers with the state, including the most recent annual report filed in March 2025. The financial interest form she must fill out as a judge does not ask her for her residential address. Property records show that she purchased a property on the other side of the city shortly after their divorce and has paid annual property taxes on it since. Reached by phone and asked if she lives in the Blue Hills home, Smith declined to comment." [News-Times (Danbury), 9/12/25]

### THE LEGACY FOUNDATION FUNDING PATTERN

**An October 2025 CT Insider Investigation Found McCrory Pressured State Education Department Officials To Boost A \$500,000 Earmark For The Legacy Foundation To \$2 Million A Year - With \$800,000 Of Those Funds Then**

**Funneled To Cicero-Hamlin’s SHEBA Resource Center And Blue Hills Civic Association.** “Sen. Doug McCrory used his leadership roles of the legislature’s education and budget committees to pressure state education department officials on several occasions to send millions of dollars to a Hartford nonprofit. At least \$800,000 of those funds were then funneled to an organization run by his associate, emails and text messages between agency staff obtained by CT Insider show. Three years ago, McCrory secured a \$500,000 earmark in the state budget for the Legacy Foundation of Hartford to support children being bused to schools in the suburbs. Records show that nonprofit kept \$200,000 and sent the remaining \$300,000 to the SHEBA Resource Center, a small non-profit run by Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin, whose relationship with McCrory is under federal investigation, as well as Blue Hills Civic Association, a separate non-profit that has also directed a substantial amount of money to Cicero-Hamlin. [...] After Legacy received the \$500,000 grant in fiscal 2023, McCrory the next year pressed education department officials to boost that \$500,000 to \$2 million a year – despite the earmark in the state budget remaining the same. ‘Senator McCrory called Kathy and would like the full \$2M released to Legacy now,’ the head of the education department’s Open Choice Program emailed her staff in September 2023, referring to Kathy Demsey, the agency’s budget chief.” [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 10/02/25]

**Per CT Insider’s October 2025 Investigation, A Connecticut State Education Department Staffer Wrote In July 2024 About The Legacy Foundation Funding: “I Will Start The Application With \$500,000 For Each Program Since The Additional \$1.5 Mil Is Not Specific. If We Get Push Back From McCrory Et.al. Then We Can Change It Like We Did Before.”** “The next summer, the education department officials again grappled with whether to distribute the \$2 million across multiple organizations or keep the grant non-competitive and route it directly to the Legacy Foundation. ‘I will start the application with \$500,000 for each program since the additional \$1.5 mil is not specific,’ the school choice staffer emailed in July 2024. ‘If we get push back from McCrory et.al. then we can change it like we did before.’ The education department eventually agreed to allot all \$2 million to Legacy again. [...] On the department’s decision to boost funding for Legacy to \$2 million a year – nearly all of the money the state budget provided to support city students across the state who are being bused to the suburbs – a spokesman for the education department said it was McCrory’s call. ‘Senator McCrory communicated the legislative intent that the full amount of available funding [included in the state budget] be directed to The Legacy Foundation,’ Matthew Cerrone said in a written response to questions.” [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 10/02/25]

**University Of Hartford Political Science Professor Bilal Sekou - Who Considers McCrory And Legacy Foundation’s Leader Friends - Said McCrory Had “Opened Himself To Criticism” That Created “An Appearance Of Impropriety That Can Be Avoided By Simply Removing Yourself From That Decision, When It Involves Someone That’s Close To You.”** “Bilal Sekou, a political science professor at the University of Hartford who considers the senator and the leader of the Legacy foundation friends, said McCrory’s job is to secure funding for his community – but he has opened himself to criticism. ‘This is the kind of stuff that lawmakers do, what I think many of their constituents expect. But they also expect, when you do these kinds of things, there aren’t these personal relationships and personal entanglements. And I think that leaves (him) open to legitimate questions from the public about whether those relationships are affecting your decisions or not,’ he said. ‘It creates an appearance of impropriety that can be avoided by simply removing yourself from that decision, when it involves someone that’s close to you.’” [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 10/02/25]

## **BLUE HILLS SHUTDOWN**

**On October 9, 2025, Blue Hills Civic Association’s Former Attorney Informed The Connecticut Freedom Of Information Commission That The Hartford Nonprofit “For All Intents And Purposes, The Agency Is Shutdown” And Could Not Defend Its Decision Not To Release Records About Spending Decisions.** “A Hartford nonprofit that has been named in a federal investigation involving state Sen. Doug McCrory has informed the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission that it ‘for all intents and purposes’ is shut down and is not in a position to defend its decision not to release records that would provide clarity about the organization’s spending decisions. Blue Hills Civic Association ‘is unable to dedicate the necessary resources or personnel to effectively participate in the Freedom of Information Commission proceedings at this time,’ Lauren Gambardella, the organization’s former attorney, wrote Friday to the state watchdog agency that can compel the release of records, if determined to be public. Gambardella said she was sending the letter ‘as a courtesy’ for her former client. ‘BHCA is currently facing severe operational challenges as it is currently in the midst of an extensive financial audit; and for all intents and purposes, the agency is shutdown,’ the letter continued.” [Stamford Advocate, 10/09/25]

## **NOVEMBER 2025: DECD COVER-UP & HVAC REPORTING**

## **THE 2023 TUCKER-BARRETT COERCION WARNING**

**A November 2025 Connecticut Mirror Investigation Revealed That In August 2023, Sabrina Tucker-Barrett, Founder Of Girls For Technology, Sent A Sharply Worded Email To Connecticut DECD Officials Alleging She Was “Coerced” Into Sharing A \$5 Million State Grant With Cicero’s SHEBA After Discovering The McCrory-Cicero Relationship.** “The leader of a small nonprofit sent Connecticut officials a sharply worded email in 2023 alleging that she was coerced into sharing a \$5 million state economic development grant with a woman who was in a relationship with Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford. Records obtained by the Connecticut Mirror show that Sabrina Tucker-Barrett, the founder of Girls For Technology, informed two high-ranking employees at the state Department of Economic and Community Development on Aug. 8, 2023 that she had recently learned about the connection between McCrory and Sonserae Cicero, the owner of another nonprofit called Society of Human Engagement and Business Alignment. Tucker-Barrett told them she was uncomfortable partnering with Cicero on the state grant, which was meant to provide coaching and support to small minority-owned businesses in Hartford and other parts of Connecticut. ‘I am writing to address a significant issue related to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Society of Human Engagement and Business Alignment (SHEBA). Upon further examination, we’ve found that we entered into this partnership based on false representation,’ Tucker-Barrett wrote. ‘We have recently discovered a potential conflict of interest concerning the relationship between Sonserae Cicero of SHEBA and Sen. McCrory. The nature and timing of this discovery have raised concerns, and I must admit I feel a degree of political coercion in proceeding with matters I do not fully agree with,’ she added.” [Connecticut Mirror, 11/03/25]

**Per The CT Mirror, Tucker-Barrett Eventually Signed The MOU With SHEBA Only After DECD Officials Held The Grant Money Until She Did. She Tried To Distance Herself, Saying She Wouldn’t Co-Produce A Podcast Or Pitch Competition With Cicero. DECD Deputy Commissioner Paul Robertson Told Her To “Wrap This Up.”** “Records show Tucker-Barrett later signed the memorandum of understanding with SHEBA in order to obtain the state grant funding for her nonprofit, but she did so only after repeated protests over the course of several months. She complained to DECD officials that Cicero wanted to be an equal party on the economic development grant, even though SHEBA was only supposed to be a ‘contractor.’ After explaining the potential conflict between McCrory and Cicero, Tucker-Barrett told the DECD officials that her preference was to completely separate her contract from SHEBA. But that was not how the situation played out. Robertson and Hummel told Tucker-Barrett by that point the state was not willing to release the grant funds until she had a fully executed contract with SHEBA. Tucker-Barrett also apparently needed the money. She told state officials in July 2023 that her nonprofit needed the grant funds to help cover her ongoing operations and start the new small business programs. ‘These funds are critical to our cash flow and our ability to cover ongoing expenses,’ she told them. Emails show Robertson and Hummel held several meetings with Tucker-Barrett and Cicero in late August in order to reach a deal between the two nonprofits, in which SHEBA would receive \$2 million over a five-year period. But even as they prepared to sign the final contract, Tucker-Barrett continued to ask for revisions in order to distance herself from Cicero. In an email on Aug. 27, 2023, Tucker-Barrett told DECD officials she was unwilling to co-produce a monthly podcast with Cicero about local entrepreneurs or collaborate on the business pitch competitions the state was paying for. Robertson responded to that email by telling Tucker-Barrett to ‘wrap this up.’” [Connecticut Mirror, 11/03/25]

**Per The CT Mirror, On The Same Day Tucker-Barrett Sent Her Coercion Email To DECD’s Robertson, Cicero Contacted Robertson And They Scheduled A Private Teams Meeting To Discuss The Situation.** “DECD declined to say whether Robertson or Hummel ever told anyone else in Lamont’s administration about the allegations Tucker-Barrett leveled against McCrory and Cicero. But the records show Cicero contacted Robertson the same day that Tucker-Barrett sent him the email alleging that she was the victim of political coercion. Cicero and Robertson then scheduled a private Teams meeting to discuss the situation.” [Connecticut Mirror, 11/03/25]

## **MCCRORY’S 2022 HVAC TRAINING SCHEME**

**A November 2025 CT Mirror/Hartford Courant Investigation Revealed McCrory In Early 2022 Convened Multiple Meetings With State Commissioners (DOL, DAS, OWS) To Push An “HVAC Training Agency” Plan Featuring Cicero’s SHEBA And The Minority Construction Council. The State Legislature Committed \$300,000 In COVID Relief Funds For The Program At McCrory’s Behest. The Money Was Never Spent And Was Eventually Returned.** “In early 2022, a state lawmaker wanted to launch a program to train minority contractors to install heating and cooling systems for schools - and he made it clear who he thought should be involved. Doug McCrory, a Democratic state senator from Hartford, called several meetings with the leaders of three Connecticut state agencies to discuss the details, according to emails obtained by The Connecticut Mirror. He also invited Jennifer Little-Greer, the director of the Minority Construction Council, and Sonserae Cicero, a nonprofit director who, along with McCrory, is now under federal investigation. The state legislature then committed \$300,000 in COVID relief funds for an ‘HVAC training agency’ in May 2022 - at McCrory’s behest, one top state official said. That money was never spent and was eventually returned to the

legislature. But McCrory's orchestration of the plan - and Cicero's involvement in the discussions - fit a pattern." [Hartford Courant, 11/11/25]

**Per The CT Mirror's Reporting On McCrory's HVAC Plan, DAS Commissioner Michelle Gilman Told Other Commissioners The Program Was A "Priority" For McCrory. Labor Commissioner Dante Bartolomeo Confirmed She Had "Never Heard Of SHEBA Or The Minority Construction Council." The HVAC Plan Was Tied To The State's Larger Decision On Whether To Spend Hundreds Of Millions On COVID-Era HVAC School Upgrades.** "The emails from early 2022 show McCrory repeatedly contacted the commissioners of the state Department of Labor and Department of Administrative Services, as well as the state Office of Workforce Strategy, asking them to work with Cicero and the Minority Construction Council on the HVAC program. 'I'm respectfully requesting another meeting, as soon as possible, to discuss the direction of the program as a follow to the last meeting you held with SHEBA Consulting and Minority Construction Council,' McCrory wrote to the commissioners in April 2022. 'It is imperative that we address the effectiveness of our current apprentice programs as it relates to racial equity and diversity.' [...] Gilman told the other commissioners that the HVAC training program was a 'priority' for McCrory, who has served as the chairman of the legislature's education committee for several years. At that time, McCrory was also negotiating with Lamont's administration over whether the state should spend hundreds of millions of dollars upgrading the HVAC systems in Connecticut schools following the COVID-19 pandemic. Gilman, who oversees the state's school construction grant program, explained that McCrory wanted to create some type of pilot program to make sure minority contractors were capable of securing some of that future work. [...] 'I don't know Jennifer Little-Green (MCC ED) and Sonserae Cicero (SHEBA CEO),' [Bartolomeo] wrote." [Hartford Courant, 11/11/25]

**When Asked By A CT Mirror Reporter About The 2022 Meetings He Arranged For Cicero, McCrory Said He Was "Too Busy" To Answer Questions. At A November 2025 Press Conference, He Said: "I'm Not Responding At This Time To Any Questions That Any Reporters Have About Anything That's Going On With The Situation, The Federal Investigation." Asked About The Probe Days Later, Lamont Said: "Let's See How Things Sort Out Over The Course Of The Next Few Months."** "McCrory answered a phone call from the CT Mirror on Thursday, but the state legislator said he was too busy to answer questions about the meetings he arranged between Cicero and the commissioners in 2022. At a Friday news conference, McCrory declined to discuss his role in the process. 'I'm not responding at this time to any questions that any reporters have about anything that's going on with the situation, the federal investigation,' he said. [...] When Lamont was asked at a press conference on Wednesday about the federal corruption probe targeting McCrory, he said people should let the investigation play out. 'I think this thing is under investigation,' said Lamont, a Democrat who was preparing to announce a campaign for a third term as governor. 'Let's see how things sort out over the course of the next few months.'" [Hartford Courant, 11/11/25]

## **DECD'S DECISION TO KEEP THE ALLEGATION INTERNAL**

**A November 2025 CT Mirror Investigation Found Connecticut DECD Officials Never Shared The August 2023 Tucker-Barrett Email Warning Of A McCrory Conflict Of Interest With Anyone Outside The Agency - Not With The Office Of State Ethics, Not With The Governor's Office. DECD Spokesman Jim Watson Said The Allegation Was Considered "An Unfounded Rumor" In 2023.** "When the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development was alerted in 2023 that Sen. Douglas McCrory allegedly had a conflict of interest with a woman whose businesses received state grant funding, the agency's staff privately discussed how to handle the potentially damaging information. But they never shared the allegations about the Democratic senator with anyone outside their agency. Gov. Ned Lamont and his staff said they were not informed until recently about the 2023 email in which the director of a Hartford nonprofit complained about a 'potential conflict of interest concerning the relationship' between McCrory and Sonserae Cicero, the owner of a company called SHEBA. DECD officials also said they never alerted the Office of State Ethics, which could have investigated the matter further. And the agency said it didn't ask McCrory or Cicero about the nature of their relationship because they didn't have reason or authority to do so. Jim Watson, a spokesman for DECD, said the alleged relationship between the state senator and Cicero was considered an 'unfounded rumor' in 2023." [Connecticut Mirror, 11/21/25]

**In November 2025, CT Mirror Reported That DECD Officials Knew Of A 2023 Email Warning Of A McCrory-Cicero Conflict Of Interest But Never Shared It With The Office Of State Ethics, Lamont, Or Anyone Outside The Agency.** "The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development was alerted in 2023 that Sen. Douglas McCrory allegedly had a conflict of interest with Sonserae Cicero, the owner of a company called SHEBA, whose businesses received state grant funding. Gov. Ned Lamont and his staff said they were not informed until recently about the 2023 email in which the director of a Hartford nonprofit complained about a 'potential conflict of interest concerning the relationship' between McCrory and Cicero. The allegations about the Democratic senator were never shared with anyone outside the agency, and DECD officials said they never alerted the Office of State Ethics." [CT Mirror, 11/21/25]

**In 2023, Girls For Technology Founder Sabrina Tucker-Barrett Told DECD She Was Persuaded To Split A \$5 Million Grant With Sonserae Cicero “Based On False Representation” Tied To McCrory.** “The 2023 email from Sabrina Tucker Barrett, the nonprofit director, was turned over to federal authorities as part of that process. Tucker-Barrett, the founder of Girls For Technology, told DECD officials that she was persuaded to split a \$5 million grant with Cicero ‘based on false representation.’ DECD spokesman Jim Watson said the alleged relationship between the state senator and Cicero was considered an ‘unfounded rumor’ in 2023.” [CT Mirror, 11/21/25]

## **EARLY JANUARY 2026: CT NEXT & NEW FUNDING SCHEMES**

### **A \$1.7 MILLION HARTFORD PROGRAM COLLAPSES**

**A January 2026 Connecticut Mirror Investigation Found A \$1.7 Million Hartford Small Business Program Launched In October 2024 With McCrory, House Speaker Ritter, And Mayor Arulampalam Collapsed After SHEBA’s \$475,000 Contract Was Cancelled - Leaving Roughly Two Dozen Hartford Entrepreneurs Who Completed Training Still Waiting For Promised \$15,000 Grants.** “In October 2024, a group of elected officials gathered in Hartford to celebrate a new \$1.7 million program that would provide assistance to small businesses along Albany Avenue, one of the city’s poorest neighborhoods. Sen. Doug McCrory, House Speaker Matt Ritter, Mayor Arunan Arulampalam and Hartford City Council President Shirley Surgeon were all in attendance, as was Sonserae Cicero, the director of a Hartford nonprofit who had just signed a \$475,000 contract to help run the new economic development initiative. The Democratic leaders said the program, which was launched in partnership with another nonprofit called Upper Albany Main Street, would serve as a lifeline for small minority-owned businesses in Hartford’s north end by providing them with training and up to \$15,000 in grant money. [...] Fast forward a year, however, and everything has changed. Cicero’s contract with the city has been cancelled, the entire program is on hold and the roughly two dozen small businesses that signed up for training are left questioning whether they will receive any of the grant money that was promised. All of the hopes that state and local officials had for the program quickly fell apart in August after it became apparent that a federal grand jury was examining the relationship between Cicero and McCrory and investigating several of Cicero’s businesses, which operate under different versions of the name SHEBA.” [Connecticut Mirror, 1/04/26]

### **CT NEXT AND THE “DOUBLE DIPPING” QUESTION**

**Per The CT Mirror, In May 2023 CT Next Executive Director Onyeka Obiocha Told State Officials That McCrory “Authorized” CT Next To Allocate \$350,000 Of A \$2 Million ARPA Pot To Cicero’s SHEBA: “Senator McCrory Is Aware Of And Approved Of The Use Of Funds.” McCrory Told The CT Mirror In November 2025 He Had “Never Heard Of CT Next.”** “Records show that the leaders of CT Next’s board voted to award part of the \$2 million to Cicero’s business shortly after the legislature appropriated the money in 2022, and by May 2023, CT Next’s executive director Onyeka Obiocha told state officials that McCrory authorized CT Next to allocate \$350,000 of that money to SHEBA. ‘Senator McCrory is aware of and approved of the use of funds,’ he wrote. Obiocha declined to comment for this story, and he referred any questions about CT Next’s intended use of the federal money to DECD. McCrory told the CT Mirror during a brief phone conversation in November that he had never heard of CT Next.” [Connecticut Mirror, 1/04/26]

**Per The CT Mirror, Marilyn Risi - Former Executive Director Of Upper Albany Main Street - Said McCrory Personally Brought Cicero To One Of UAMS’s Monthly Meetings To Pitch The CT Next Partnership: “Senator McCrory Brought Sonserae Cicero To One Of Our Meetings And Stated We Were Going To Be Working With CT Next.” Risi Said McCrory Made Clear UAMS “Would Need To Work With Cicero If They Wanted To Obtain The Grant Funding.”** “But according to Risi, it was McCrory who introduced her to the staff at CT Next and proposed a partnership between SHEBA and Upper Albany Main Street. She said McCrory showed up at one of Upper Albany Main Street’s monthly meetings with Cicero to pitch the plan for the small business program. ‘Senator McCrory brought Sonserae Cicero to one of our meetings and stated we were going to be working with CT Next,’ Risi told the CT Mirror in an interview. ‘We were supposed to contact small businesses that would be receiving loans and grants, provided that they would participate in seminars that (Cicero) was going to provide.’ Risi said she questioned, at the time, why Upper Albany Main Street needed to partner with Cicero on the small business training. And she pointed out that her organization already had an established relationship with the University of Hartford, which paired up college students with local businesses to help them with loan applications, creating business plans and budgeting. But McCrory made it clear, Risi said, that Upper Albany Main Street would need to work with Cicero if they wanted to obtain the grant funding from the state.” [Connecticut Mirror, 1/04/26]

**Per The CT Mirror, In July 2023 DECD Employee Rhonda Olisky Raised Concerns About SHEBA “Double Dipping”:** “They Received State Funding To Perform The Exact Same Work That Was Outlined In The CT Next Proposal. I Believe Onyeka Was Unaware Of That Funding, However, He Did Agree With Us That We All Want To Avoid Any Appearance Of ‘Double-Dipping.’” **Hartford Mayor Arulampalam Said He Was Never Informed About The 2023 Concerns Before Awarding A New \$475,000 SHEBA Contract In October 2024.** “The decision to subgrant part of the federal funds to SHEBA became a sticking point once state officials recognized that Cicero was already being paid \$300,000 for the same type of work through another small business program, which McCrory also helped to approve. That state-run program, which was overseen by the staff at DECD through its Minority Business Initiative, required small businesses to go through SHEBA’s so-called ‘accelerator’ program before they could apply for a forgivable loan of up to \$50,000. The fact that Cicero would be paid to provide the same type of training through multiple taxpayer-funded programs, DECD officials explained, could lead people to question the state’s decision to award her more money. ‘They received state funding to perform the exact same work that was outlined in the CT Next proposal,’ Rhonda Olisky, an employee at DECD, told other state officials in July 2023. ‘I believe Onyeka was unaware of that funding, however, he did agree with us that we all want to avoid any appearance of ‘double-dipping.’ [...] Arulampalam said the city ran its normal checks before the contract with SHEBA was finalized in October 2024, but he said state officials, who also reviewed the city’s proposal, never informed him of their earlier reservations about SHEBA being paid for similar services through multiple programs.” [Connecticut Mirror, 1/04/26]

## **JANUARY 21–22, 2026: FORENSIC AUDIT RELEASED & LAMONT’S ‘STEP BACK’ CALL**

### **LAMONT CALLS ON MCCRORY TO “STEP BACK”**

**On January 21, 2026, Following The Forensic Audit Release, Gov. Ned Lamont Called On McCrory To “Step Back” From His Connecticut Senate Leadership Roles, Saying “I Have Zero Tolerance For This Type Of Stuff. I’m Not Sure He Should Stay In The Positions He’s In Right Now.”** “Gov. Ned Lamont called for Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, to ‘step back’ from his leadership roles in the Connecticut General Assembly after a forensic audit showed McCrory used the Blue Hills Civic Association, a nonprofit in the north end of Hartford, to distribute millions of dollars in state funds to individuals and organizations of his choosing. The audit, which was commissioned by the state Department of Economic and Community Development, found that McCrory dictated how Blue Hills spent more than \$15 million that was given to the organization in the past five years. [...] During a press conference Wednesday, Lamont said the Senate should be ‘very strict’ with McCrory. ‘Look, as soon as DECD started hearing about some irregularities regarding Blue Hills, they put in place an audit,’ Lamont said. ‘We got the results of the audit, and I think we’ve got to be really strict about this. I have zero tolerance for this type of stuff. I’m not sure he should stay in the positions he’s in right now.’ Lamont said he’d leave the consequences of the audit up to the Senate, but if it were him, he’d want the Democratic senator to ‘step back.’ Asked to specify whether he thought McCrory should step down from leadership positions or from the Senate entirely, the governor said, ‘I think he should step back.’” [Connecticut Mirror, 1/21/26]

### **SENATE DEMOCRATS DECLINE TO DISCIPLINE**

**On January 21, 2026, Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney Said He Saw “No Reason” To Remove McCrory From His Education Committee Chairmanship Or Community Investment Fund Board Position. Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff Said He Hadn’t Read The Audit Yet.** “As he was entering a meeting at the governor’s office on Wednesday, Looney acknowledged that the audit raised ‘many concerns’ about how state grant money was used. But he said he saw no reason to remove McCrory from his committee chairmanship or his position on the Community Investment fund board. ‘We’re going to have a number of discussions, but obviously there is nothing that is in evidence right now that would indicate that there is anything that would suggest that there has been a criminal offense,’ Looney said. Meanwhile, Sen. Bob Duff, the Senate Majority Leader, said he had not read the audit that scrutinized McCrory’s relationship with Blue Hills employees.” [Connecticut Mirror, 1/21/26]

**On January 22, 2026 - Despite The “Damning” Audit - Senate Democratic Leaders Confirmed McCrory Would Retain His Education Committee Co-Chairmanship And Deputy President Pro Tempore Title. Lamont Said McCrory Should Not “Be Doing Anything Regarding Earmarks, Period” And Demanded He “Explain Very Quickly What Went On.”** “Despite an audit report released this week that stated there was ‘potential fraud and misappropriation of public funds’ in state grant awards to a nonprofit linked to state Sen. Douglas McCrory, the veteran Democrat from Hartford will retain his leadership posts in the General Assembly, lawmakers said. [...] Gov Ned Lamont suggested Wednesday that at the very least, McCrory should not be in a position to control future funding to local nonprofit agencies after the release of the audit. ‘I come down like a ton of bricks on this stuff,’ Lamont told reporters. ‘A state legislator like Doug McCrory there, I want him to explain very quickly what went on and why he deserves to stay as the head of the

Education Committee and state senator,' Lamont said. 'I have zero tolerance for this. The final call is in the state Senate, but I'd be very strict on this. Surely he should not be doing anything regarding earmarks, period. I think he can speak for himself, but he'd better explain exactly a response to what we read about and what we saw in that audit, because I thought it was pretty damning.' ['] Kevin Coughlin, communications director for the Senate Democrats, said Wednesday to CT Insider McCrory will retain his co-chairmanship of the legislative Education Committee and title of deputy president pro tempore." [Connecticut Post, 1/22/26]

**House Minority Leader Vincent Candelora Cited Precedent For Stripping McCrory Of Committee Assignments: "We Have Seen Far Less Transgressions In The House Where We Have Removed People From Their Positions Of Leadership And Committee Assignment." Senate Democrats Removed Sen. Dennis Bradley Of Bridgeport From Committee Assignments In 2021 After His Federal Campaign Fraud Indictment.** "In spring 2021, then-state Sen. Dennis Bradley of Bridgeport was removed from his committee assignments by Looney and Duff after his arrest on federal campaign-fraud charges, a case that is still pending in U.S. District Court. House Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora, R-North Branford, said Wednesday during an interview at the Legislative Office Building that although no criminal charges have resulted from the Blue Hills Civic Association case, precedents are there for McCrory to be stripped of committee assignments. 'We have seen far less transgressions in the House where we have removed people from their positions of leadership and committee assignment. At the very least, Sen. McCrory should unfortunately be taking a little bit of a back seat from some of his leadership positions. There actually should be a higher standard in our state to address these issues,' Candelora said. He was referring to lawmakers in the House being stripped in recent years of leadership roles and committee assignments following arrests, including for driving under the influence." [Connecticut Post, 1/22/26]

## THE AUDIT'S CORE FINDINGS

**The CliftonLarsonAllen January 2026 Forensic Audit Found That "Funding Allocations Were Largely Determined By Senator McCrory, With BHCA Executing Disbursements Without Consistent Adherence To Required Procedures Such As Obtaining Signed MOUs Or Projected Budgets Prior To Payment."** "Over the past five years, Sen. Doug McCrory helped to award more than \$15 million in state grants to the Blue Hills Civic Association, a prominent 60-year-old community nonprofit that served part of his district in the north end of Hartford. But he used that organization as a means to distribute millions of dollars to other local nonprofits and businesses of his choosing, with little or no oversight over how they were spending that money, according to internal records and a newly released forensic audit conducted by the accounting firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. 'Available documentation and email correspondence indicate that funding allocations were largely determined by Senator McCrory, with BHCA executing disbursements without consistent adherence to required procedures such as obtaining signed MOUs or projected budgets prior to payment,' the audit reported." [Connecticut Mirror, 1/21/26]

**Per The CliftonLarsonAllen Audit, McCrory Directed Blue Hills To "Arrange A Passthrough" In 2024 - Routing \$1.5 Million Through The Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative So It Could Sign A Contract With Cicero For \$615,000, Allowing BHCA To "Avoid Contracting With Cicero's Company Directly." Open Checkbook Did Not Register These Payments.** "Internal records from Blue Hills also show that the leaders of the nonprofit sent more than \$600,000 directly to Cicero's business in 2023, and they orchestrated another payment of \$615,000 in 2024. For that second transaction, McCrory directed Blue Hills Civic Association to arrange a 'passthrough' that would allow the BHCA to avoid contracting with Cicero's company directly, according to the audit. That plan called for the Blue Hills Civic Association to transfer \$1.5 million to another local nonprofit, the Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative, which subsequently signed a contract with Cicero, giving her the additional \$615,000. By that point, state officials had been warned of a potential conflict of interest between McCrory and Cicero. And at least one member of the Blue Hills Civic Association's board had raised concerns about the amount of money the nonprofit was giving to Cicero, according to The Hartford Courant. Because the money was routed through Blue Hills and the Upper Albany Neighborhood Collaborative, the state had no way of knowing the final recipient of the money. Government transparency measures like the State Comptroller's Open Checkbook website didn't register the payments to SHEBA or any of the other businesses and nonprofits that received grants from Blue Hills." [Connecticut Mirror, 1/21/26]

## DETAILED AUDIT FINDINGS ON CICERO-HAMLIN'S WORK

**Per A January 2026 Hartford Courant Account Of The Audit, Auditors Found An Email From Blue Hills ED Vicki Gallon-Clark Asking For Instructions On How To Back-Date A Contract Document That Would Increase Cicero's Grant Money To \$600,000 From \$50,000. Gallon-Clark Said She Was Following Instructions From McCrory.** "The auditors report finding an email from former BHCA Executive Director Vicki Gallon-Clark asking for instructions on how to back-date a contract document that would increase the amount of grant money directed to a Cicero-Hamlin's SHEBA, to

\$600,000 from \$50,000. In the email, Gallon-Clark said she was following instructions from McCrory.” [Hartford Courant, 1/22/26]

**Per The Hartford Courant, The CliftonLarsonAllen Audit Found That A SHEBA Scholarship Grant For 50 Scholarships Of \$1,000 Each Was Instead Spent On “A Series Of Large, Irregular Transactions, Including Multiple ‘Over Counter’ Checks And Payments Unrelated To Scholarships, Totaling \$49,916.59.” Questionable Expenses Included Five Netflix Charges, Amazon, Best Buy, Walgreens And Walmart Purchases, \$120,439 In Checks To Unknown Recipients, And A \$7,748 Discover Card Payment.** “Elsewhere in the audit, CliftonAllenLarson report that it was unable to account for money Cicero-Hamlin’s nonprofit had been given to start a scholarship program. ‘The financial records provided by SHEBA directly contradict the grant report’s assertion that \$50,000 was distributed as 50 scholarships of \$1,000 each. Instead, the bank detail shows a series of large, irregular transactions, including multiple ‘over counter’ checks and payments unrelated to scholarships, totaling \$49,916.59,’ the auditors wrote. ‘The absence of documentation identifying scholarship recipients, combined with these questionable disbursements, strongly suggests that the funds were not used for their intended purpose. This pattern reflects serious misrepresentation and potential misuse of public grant funds, raising significant concerns about compliance and accountability, and without inspecting the books and records for SHEBA, it is not possible to determine the ultimate recipient or purpose of the checks.’ Among the questionable expenditures identified by the auditors: five charges to Netflix, accounted for as Marketing, Publicity and Advertising; retail purchases at Amazon, At Home, Best Buy, BJ’s Wholesale, Target, Walgreens and Walmart; \$120,439.00 in checks to unknown recipients; and what appears to be a \$7,748.00 payment on a Discover credit card.” [Hartford Courant, 1/22/26]

**Per The Hartford Courant On The CliftonLarsonAllen Audit, Despite \$84,000 In SHEBA Consulting Invoices For BHCA Handbook Revisions, “There Is No Evidence Of Substantive Work Product, Meaningful Policy Updates, Or Documented Involvement By Ms. Cicero-Hamlin.” Internal Communications Showed Handbook Revision Responsibilities Were Assigned To BHCA Staff, And The 2007 Handbook Remained In Use For Years.** “The auditors also report that there are cases where they could find no evidence that work for which Cicero-Hamlin was paid was actually completed. One case involved training members of the BHCA board and another involved revising the association’s handbook. ‘Despite invoices and payments totaling \$84,000 to SHEBA Consulting for handbook revisions, there is no evidence of substantive work product, meaningful policy updates, or documented involvement by Ms.(Sonserae) Cicero-Hamlin. Instead, internal communications show that handbook revision responsibilities were assigned to BHCA staff, and the 2007 handbook remained in use for years following the disbursements to Ms. Cicero-Hamlin.’ A former BHCA board member told the Courant that she cannot recall any board training[...].” [Hartford Courant, 1/22/26]

**Per A January 2026 Hearst CT Audit Summary, Cicero-Hamlin Was Paid \$42,000 For 150 Hours Of Leadership And Management Training That Auditors Said Amounted To: A 13-Minute YouTube TED Talk Video, A Six-Slide PowerPoint With Only Four Slides Of Content, And A Two-Hour Training With A 30-Minute Breakout Session. She Also Reported Spending 50 Hours On Board Director Training And Invoiced \$14,000 - But Auditors Found “No Evidence” The Training Took Place.** “Cicero-Hamlin reportedly received \$42,000 for 150 hours worth of work tied to leadership and management training, which amounted to showing a 13-minute YouTube video of a TED Talk, a six-slide PowerPoint that featured only four slides of content and a two-hour training that included a 30-minute breakout session, according to the audit. Also, Cicero-Hamlin reported she had dedicated 50 hours to training board directors and invoiced \$14,000. But auditors said ‘no evidence was found to substantiate the claim’ that she ‘performed or facilitated board training during this period.’ According to the audit, BHCA board members confirmed ‘that they did not receive training in any format’ and that Cicero-Hamlin ‘did not provide any services for the board.’” [News-Times (Danbury), 1/22/26]

**Per The CliftonLarsonAllen Audit, Blue Hills Was Defrauded Of \$300,000 In October 2024 After Wiring Funds To A Bank Account Using Information From A “Fraudulent Email Address Spelled Slightly Differently” Than The Legitimate My People Community Services Email Address. CFO Tom Sussman Twice Told ED Gallon-Clark The State Had To Be Notified, But She Held Off Because She Said McCrory Had Advised Her Not To Until The FBI Probe Was Complete.** “In October 2024, Blue Hills transferred \$300,000 to a fraudulent recipient posing as a legitimate subgrantee of state funds, according to the audit. Blue Hills did not wire the grant funds to the account they had used previously, the audit said, but instead wired it to a bank account using information sent by a fraudulent email address spelled slightly differently than the correct email address. The organization failed to notify state government officials as required until months later, in March, despite the organization’s director, Gallon-Clark, and its chief financial officer, Tom Sussman, becoming aware of the issue in December, according to the audit. The audit states that Gallon-Clark told Sussman not to notify anyone because McCrory had advised her not to do so until an FBI investigation into the cyber theft was completed. McCrory denied telling Gallon-Clark to wait to notify the state when asked about it in April by a CT Insider reporter. ‘Hell no. I have a 20-year relationship with them. If I would have known there was a problem about wire fraud, I would have notified them,’ McCrory said at the time. The audit detailed two instances in which Sussman said to Gallon-

Clark that the Department of Economic Community Development would need to be notified after the organization became aware of the fraud. Sussman declined to comment when reached Wednesday by a CT Insider reporter. 'CLA was also unable to determine the rationale for informing Senator McCrory prior to DECD,' the audit read." [Connecticut Post, 1/23/26]

## LATE JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2026: McCRORY'S DEFENSE & SENATE DEM RESPONSE

### MCCRORY PROFILE: "IT'S DEVASTATING"

**In A May 2025 Sit-Down Capitol Office Interview - Three Weeks After Blue Hills Layoffs - McCrory Told CT Insider The Nonprofit Had Been "Part Of My Life Ever Since I've Known" And Had Helped Him Land His First Job: "It's Devastating. It's The Heartbeat Of That Community. I'm In A Bad Space, Mentally And Emotionally, About It."** "As a student growing up in one of Connecticut's most impoverished neighborhoods, Doug McCrory spent afternoons at a local community organization that would shape his life - a place that helped him land his first job as a teenager, mentored him through high school and later trusted him to run programs for kids who reminded him of himself. Today, McCrory stands accused in a state-funded audit of using his position as a state senator to steer at least \$1.7 million in taxpayer funds through that same organization to benefit one of his close associates. Federal prosecutors are also probing that personal relationship and the connection with state grants. [...] Amid this scrutiny, the state paused funding for Blue Hills Civic Association, and the organization that shaped McCrory collapsed, along with the work that it had done. 'It's devastating. That organization has been a part of my life ever since I've known,' McCrory said during a sit-down interview in his Capitol office last May, three weeks after the organization laid off nearly all of its employees. 'It's the heartbeat of that community. I'm in a bad space, mentally and emotionally, about it.'" [Connecticut Post, 2/01/26]

**Per The CT Insider Profile, McCrory Has Never Disclosed Any Relationship With Cicero-Hamlin In His Office Of State Ethics Financial Interest Filings, Nor Has He Asked Office Of State Ethics For Guidance Or An Opinion On The Matter.** "Connecticut's state ethics laws forbid a legislator from personally gaining financially as a direct result of their work as a legislator. McCrory has never disclosed any relationship with Cicero-Hamlin in his financial interest filings with the Office of State Ethics, nor has he ever asked them for guidance or an opinion on the matter. Federal subpoenas issued to the state's economic development agency last summer revealed the FBI was probing McCrory and his connection to Cicero-Hamlin, along with any relationship he might have with her agencies and Blue Hills. CT Insider also reported last fall that federal investigators interviewed the owner of the home that sources also told CT Insider they had been invited to by McCrory and Cicero-Hamlin." [Connecticut Post, 2/01/26]

**On January 28, 2026 - One Week After The Audit's Release - When Asked About It In An Interview About His Education Committee Goals, McCrory Said "It Wasn't Appropriate To Talk About The Audit" And That It "Has Nothing To Do With Education." Asked How The Public Can Trust Him To Direct Funding, He Said All Decisions Are Made By The Committee As A Whole.** "During an interview Wednesday about his goals for the upcoming legislative session as chair of the Education Committee, McCrory said it wasn't appropriate to talk about the audit and that it has nothing to do with education. Asked how the public can trust him to direct funding appropriately through his leadership roles, he said all the funding decisions are done by the committee as a whole, and one person is not making funding decisions. He ended the interview and declined to answer any more questions." [Connecticut Post, 2/01/26]

### THE COMMUNITY TOLL OF BLUE HILLS' COLLAPSE

**A February 2026 Hearst CT Investigation Detailed The Toll Of The Blue Hills Civic Association Closure On The North Hartford Community, Including The End Of Its Monthly "Parent Power" Program. Former Employee Beverley Hines Said BHCA's Closure "Was A Death Sentence Over The Community."** "Founded in 1962, BHCA became a 'major player' in supporting youth, families and the broader north Hartford community, said Kelvin LoveJoy, who worked there for 18 years. The organization's approach was simple: engage children to connect with families, which in turn led to positive change throughout the community, LoveJoy said. That work took many forms. BHCA distributed meals, helped residents apply for flood relief and unemployment benefits, and coached them on writing resumes. Through a partnership with Weaver High School, it gave students and their families access to computers and other educational resources. Perhaps its most popular offering was a youth summer employment program that regularly hired hundreds of high school students, becoming one of the city's largest employers of local youth. [...] When BHCA shut down, the consequences were immediate and far-reaching. Services were canceled, cutting off a critical avenue of support for 'families that were really struggling' — not just financially, but also emotionally, physically and mentally, Hines said. Its closure, she added, 'was a death sentence over the community,' creating an 'eerie feeling that just hung over the town.'" [Connecticut Post, 2/02/26]

## MCCRORY'S WRITTEN STATEMENT

**In A January 22, 2026 Statement Posted To His Connecticut Legislative Website, McCrory Wrote: “Although I Engaged In No Wrongdoing I Was Mentioned In The Audit Because I Was Involved In Advocating At The Legislature For Resources For Organizations Within My District, Including BHCA, And Some Of The Organizations That Received Funds Were Criticized In The Audit.”** “McCrory, who has declined to be interviewed by The Connecticut Mirror, wrote in a statement posted to his legislative website that ‘Although I engaged in no wrongdoing I was mentioned in the audit because I was involved in advocating at the legislature for resources for organizations within my district, including BHCA, and some of the organizations that received funds were criticized in the audit.’ McCrory added that he agrees with the Department of Economic and Community Development that ‘stronger oversight is needed to ensure that public funds are managed responsibly and effectively.’” [Connecticut Mirror, 2/04/26]

## LAMONT'S BUDGET REFORM PROPOSAL

**On February 4, 2026, Gov. Lamont's New \$28.7 Billion Budget Proposed Cutting All Connecticut Earmarks (Excluding Housing, Juvenile Justice, And Federally Qualified Health Centers) By 20% - \$15.7 Million - Citing Reports About How McCrory Helped Direct \$15 Million To Blue Hills. The Preliminary Budget For Fiscal 2026-27 Had Included \$78.6 Million In Earmarks Outside Those Three Areas.** “Gov. Ned Lamont challenged legislators in his new \$28.7 billion budget to reform how Connecticut funds ‘earmarks,’ smaller projects for lawmakers’ home districts that often lack the vetting given to larger initiatives. Millions of dollars would be removed from omnibus ‘other expenses’ accounts across departmental budgets, in which they’re largely invisible. They would be transferred to specific ‘grants’ line items. More importantly, the state agencies responsible for implementing legislators’ pet projects would have to post financial and other details of each project on open data portal websites run by the governor’s budget office, the state comptroller’s office, or both. The proposals stem from reports about how Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, helped direct more than \$15 million in earmarks over the past five years to the Blue Hills Civic Association. They also come shortly after a state audit identified ‘potential fraud’ tied to those earmarks, and after Lamont called for McCrory to be removed from his leadership roles. [...] The governor’s proposed budget revisions would trim funding for all earmarks - excluding those connected to housing, juvenile justice programs or federally qualified health centers - by 20%, or \$15.7 million. The preliminary budget adopted last June for the 2026-27 fiscal year included \$78.6 million for earmarks outside those three areas.” [Connecticut Mirror, 2/04/26]

## REPUBLICAN RESPONSE AND OVERSIGHT VACUUM

**In February 2026, Connecticut House And Senate Republican Leaders Held A News Conference Citing The McCrory Probe To Brand Democrats As Indifferent To A “Culture Of Corruption,” Proposing An Inspector General Office, A Restored Program Review And Investigations Committee, And Required Public Hearings On Audits.** “One of the graphics was yellowed, recycled from a news conference a year ago when Republicans first proclaimed Connecticut to be suffering from a ‘culture of corruption,’ a product of one-party rule tolerated by Gov. Ned Lamont and the legislature’s Democratic majority. But as Republicans came back Thursday with a renewed effort to brand Democrats as indifferent to malfeasance, they had fresher material: a scandal over legislative earmarks, a damning audit and the unchallenged assertion that millions of dollars in grants are disbursed annually to local groups with little vetting. ‘We are here today to say that we are not going away,’ said House Minority Leader Vincent J. Candelora of North Branford. ‘Our proposals are not going to go away. We are going to propose them again and again and again until we at least hear from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and this governor that they are going to get serious.’ [...] One of the new GOP proposals is that the General Assembly follow the example of Congress, which requires the disclosure of which lawmaker arranged an earmark and an affidavit from the sponsoring legislator that neither they nor their families stand to benefit financially.” [Hartford Courant, 2/21/26]

**Per The Hartford Courant, After The Audit Lamont Called For McCrory To Be Relieved Of His Committee Assignments. McCrory Is Co-Chair Of The Education Committee, A Member Of The Appropriations Committee, And One Of Two Senate Democrats Sitting On The Government Oversight Committee. The Senate Democratic Leadership Declined To Act On The Governor's Request.** “After the Blue Hills audit, Lamont called on McCrory to be relieved of his committee assignments. He is the co-chair of the Education Committee and a member of the Appropriations Committee. He also is one of two Senate Democrats sitting on the legislature’s Government Oversight Committee. The Senate Democratic leadership declined to act on the governor’s request. Despite the relatively recent creation of the Government Oversight Committee, the legislature has largely abandoned its oversight role. In 2017, the

legislature disbanded its bipartisan Program Review and Investigations Committee, one of the reforms adopted in the 1970s.” [Hartford Courant, 2/21/26]

## AUDIT DISCREPANCIES SURFACE

**A February 2026 Hearst CT Analysis Identified Discrepancies In The CliftonLarsonAllen Audit’s Treatment Of McCrory: The Audit Said McCrory “Pushed” Blue Hills To Delay Telling DECD About The \$300,000 Theft, But The Underlying Email Showed McCrory “Agreed” With Gallon-Clark’s Suggestion To Delay - The Audit Omitted The Words “He Agreed.”** “Did McCrory request the delay? The audit suggests he did. ‘Senator McCrory would like BHCA to ‘wait until we get the FBI investigative report and then share with the State,’ the audit said, referring to an email on Feb. 10, 2025, from Gallon-Clark to two other Blue Hills employees. But the actual email doesn’t say McCrory made any request for a delay. In fact, the email string shows, Gallon-Clark told her associates three days earlier, ‘I had a very productive meeting with Senator McCrory today. We got what I requested.’ That referred to \$475,000 in state grants. One of the employees asks Gallon-Clark if she discussed the missing money with McCrory. ‘Yes,’ Gallon-Clark responded. ‘He agreed that we should wait until we get the FBI investigative report and then share with the state.’ The audit left out those two words, ‘he agreed’ — suggesting it was McCrory pushing for the delay.” [News-Times (Danbury) (Dan Haar), 2/27/26]

## EARLY MARCH 2026: CIF RESIGNATION & FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENTS

**On August 2, 2024, McCrory Bragged At The Greater Hartford African American Alliance Forum That He Personally Created The Community Investment Fund And Sat On Its Board — A Position He Was Forced To Resign In March 2026 Amid The BHCA Audit.** “Myself, the governor and some of my colleagues, we created a program called the Community Investment Fund. The community invested fund spends about \$175 million a year for programs in our community. I'm proud to say that not only I have created it, but I sit on that fund, and that's why you see projects that are getting done in our community over the last couple years. [...] Those dollars come from that fund, and they come from a person who have the experience and ability to walk into the governor's office and demand and advocate for our community.” [GHAA Forum 2, 8/2/24]

## RESIGNATION FROM THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND BOARD

**On March 3, 2026, McCrory Resigned From Connecticut’s Community Investment Fund 2030 Board - Which Distributes Hundreds Of Millions In State Bond Money To Distressed Cities And Towns - Calling The Forensic Audit “Inaccurate, Deceptive, And Biased.” Sen. Herron Keyon Gaston, D-Bridgeport, Replaced Him.** “An embattled Sen. Douglas McCrory, citing a recent audit that suggests he might have been involved in fraud, resigned Tuesday afternoon from an influential public board that gives hundreds of millions of dollars in state bond money to distressed cities and towns. McCrory, a Hartford Democrat, exited the Community Investment Fund 2030 board in a letter to Sen. Martin Looney, D-New Haven, the Senate president pro-tem. Looney and House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, serve as co-chairs of the board. ‘A recent inaccurate, deceptive, and biased audit of an organization funded by the Community Investment Fund risks becoming a distraction from the Fund’s important work. I believe this work is too important to risk jeopardizing it,’ McCrory wrote in a letter to Looney. ‘This audit contains several inaccuracies, makes unfounded claims, and demonstrates clear bias against me. The overall veracity should be questioned, and the litany of inconsistencies is too voluminous to list here. I engaged in no wrongdoing and expect all concerns to prove unfounded.’ Looney immediately named Sen. Herron Keyon Gaston, D-Bridgeport, to replace McCrory on the board.” [News-Times (Danbury) (Hearst CT), 3/03/26]

**Per The Hearst CT Reporting, McCrory Remained On The Connecticut Senate Education Committee And The Minority Business Initiative Board Despite His CIF Resignation. The CIF Had Disbursed \$562 Million To Date, Including At Least \$750,000 Going To Blue Hills Civic Association. Cicero-Hamlin Sought But Did Not Receive \$3.4 Million From CIF In 2024.** “McCrory remains the committee co-chair, giving him significant influence over state money. He is also on the board of the Minority Business Initiative, another state body. [...] The Community Investment Fund 2030 was formed in 2021 as a way to steer more than \$750 million of state bond money to 57 ‘distressed municipalities,’ including Connecticut’s cities, after Lamont pulled back on bond funding commitments. The fund has a board of 21 members, including most of the top state elected and appointed officials, but not the governor or lieutenant governor. The fund has had seven tranches of disbursements totaling \$562 million to dozens of recipient groups, several in McCrory’s district. Blue Hills Civic Association has received at least \$750,000 from the fund, public records show, and has close ties to other recipients. Cicero-Hamlin, who sought but did not receive \$3.4 million from the fund in 2024, did receive \$300,000 from the Minority Business Initiative, where McCrory remains a board member.” [News-Times (Danbury) (Hearst CT), 3/03/26]

## MCCRORY'S FIRST PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CICERO-HAMLIN

**On March 4, 2026 - The Day After Resigning From CIF - McCrory Spoke Publicly For The First Time About Cicero-Hamlin At A Senate Democrats' Press Conference: "I Know Sonserae A Number Of Years. She's A Friend Of Mine. She's A Constituent... I'm Not Married. That's My Personal Business. I Don't Think It's That Important That People Know What I Do In My Personal Life."** "McCrory has not disclosed the nature of his relationship with Cicero-Hamlin, a posture he maintained Wednesday. 'I know Sonserae a number of years. She's a friend of mine. She's a constituent,' McCrory said. 'She's brought great programming in the area of small business access to capital, and I appreciate the work, and a lot of people, individually and organizations, have benefited from it.' He refused to say they had a romantic relationship. 'I'm not married. That's my personal business,' he said. 'I think that's a very slippery slope when you start talking about people's relationships with legislators, or whatever the case may be.' 'You come and meet people all kind of ways. You meet them through church. Politically, you meet people all kind of ways,' he said. 'I don't think it's that important that people know what I do in my personal life.'" [Connecticut Mirror, 3/04/26]

**On March 4, 2026, McCrory Confirmed He Had Worked At The Capitol Region Education Council For Eight Years As "The Director Of Family And Community Engagement" And Said He Did "Not Benefit Financially" From The Vetoed \$750,000 CREC Teacher Training Earmark.** "McCrory said there was no bar on his advocating for the funding to CREC, which operates magnet schools in the region, among other things. 'I worked at Hartford for 12 years, 13 years. I voted for things that supported Hartford, okay? I worked for CREC for the last eight years,' McCrory said. 'I don't benefit financially from this program.' McCrory began his education career teaching at the Rawson Elementary School in the Blue Hills neighborhood of Hartford and later became an administrator at Lewis Fox Middle School. He said he currently is employed by CREC as the director of family and community engagement." [Connecticut Mirror, 3/04/26]

## LAMONT VETOES \$750K CREC EARMARK

**On March 5, 2026, Gov. Lamont Used His Line-Item Veto To Strike \$750,000 In Earmarked State Funds For A Capitol Region Education Council Teacher Residency Program In Hartford - Where McCrory Works In The Central Office. Records Showed McCrory Had Been Lobbying For The Earmark Since August 2025. CREC Said McCrory Did Not Oversee The Teacher Residency Program.** "The vetoed appropriations include a \$750,000 grant for a teacher residency program for the Capital Region Education Council in Hartford, where state Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, works in the central office. McCrory, a member of the General Assembly since 2005, is at the center of an FBI probe and state audit into state earmarks that went to organizations operated by Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin, one of his close associates. Records obtained by CT Insider through an open records request showed McCrory was lobbying for the \$750,000 earmark that would get the money directed to his employer as of last August. A CREC spokesperson said McCrory does not oversee the school district's teacher residency program and has nothing to do with it." [Connecticut Post, 3/05/26]

## HARTFORD RENAISSANCE DISTRICT SCANDAL

**In March 2026, The State Demanded Howard Hill's Hartford Renaissance District Return \$300,000+ Of A \$400,000 Startup Grant After A Connecticut Mirror Investigation Found No Promised Home Renovations Were Completed Despite The Money - And The Nonprofit Spent \$5,000 Of State Funds On A DJ Plus \$70,000 On A North Carolina Real Estate Developer.** "In the summer of 2024, more than a dozen people gathered inside a home in Hartford's north end to learn about an enticing new opportunity. A newly established nonprofit called the Hartford Renaissance District was offering to use state money to pay for home renovations for low-income property owners living near Barbour Street, one of the state's poorest communities. [...] But more than a year and a half after that meeting, none of the promised renovations have been completed, despite the state providing the Hartford Renaissance District with more than \$400,000 in startup funding and the nonprofit spending \$70,000 on a North Carolina real estate developer to lead the program. [...] In July 2025, a federal grand jury subpoenaed a large number of records related to Howard Hill, the founder of the Renaissance District, as part of an FBI investigation into state Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, and a number of local nonprofits. And earlier this year, officials at the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development demanded the Hartford Renaissance District return more than \$300,000 to the state after the Connecticut Mirror began inquiring about the status of the home renovation program. At that point, the leaders of the Renaissance District were asked to provide the state with financial records showing how they'd utilized the \$400,000 they received in March 2024, and the records the nonprofit turned over showed it spent \$5,000 of that money on a DJ, among other expenses that were questioned by the state." [Connecticut Mirror, 3/10/26]

**Per The CT Mirror, McCrory Appeared In A Promotional Video Alongside U.S. Rep. John Larson Describing Hill's Hartford Renaissance District Plans For Barbour Street As An Opportunity To "Revitalize A Community That Has Been Vacant And Dormant For A Very Long Time."** "But in a promotional video, Hill described his goal of redeveloping a large portion of the Barbour Street neighborhood, where the median annual income is below \$30,000 and an estimated 40% of the community lives under the federal poverty level. 'This is where I decided to start the Hartford Renaissance District. It's a vision to redevelop this whole entire neighborhood, create economic development, stable housing and a place where people can thrive where they live,' Hill explained in the video. McCrory, who is also featured in one the videos alongside U.S. Rep. John Larson, described Hill's plans for Barbour Street as an opportunity to 'revitalize a community that has been vacant and dormant for a very long time.' And he said they would seek to expand their work to other areas of Hartford as well." [Connecticut Mirror, 3/10/26]

## **APRIL–MAY 2026: CONTINUED INVESTIGATIONS & EARMARK REFORM**

### **CICERO AND HOSKIE REFUSE TO TURN OVER RECORDS**

**In April 2026, Connecticut Auditors Reported That Sonserae Cicero And Roberta Hoskie Of RH Realty Services Had Failed To Turn Over Records Showing How They Spent Roughly \$1.7 Million And \$225,000 Respectively In State Funding Received Through Blue Hills With McCrory's Help. Cicero's Businesses Netted More Than 10% Of The Money McCrory Helped Funnel To Blue Hills From 2020-2025.** "Two business owners who received nearly \$2 million in state grants with the help of Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, have failed to turn over records to auditors who are examining what happened to more than \$15 million in public funds that went to the Blue Hills Civic Association in recent years. According to state officials, Sonserae Cicero, who is the subject of an ongoing federal criminal investigation along with McCrory, has not turned over records showing how her businesses spent roughly \$1.7 million in state funding that she received through the Blue Hills Civic Association between 2022 and 2024. State officials also confirmed that auditors have not received financial records from Roberta Hoskie, the owner of a RH Realty Services, which received \$225,000 through Blue Hills in 2023 and 2024 to provide mortgage coaching to minority households. [...] Records show that Cicero's businesses, which operate under different versions of the name SHEBA, netted more than 10% of the money that McCrory helped to funnel to Blue Hills from 2020 and 2025." [Connecticut Mirror, 4/02/26]

**The February 2026 Initial Forensic Audit Report Stated: "The Disbursement Activity Between BHCA And SHEBA Consulting, As Well As Directly To Ms. Cicero, Reveals A Troubling Pattern Of Financial Mismanagement, Potential Fraud, And A Complete Breakdown Of Internal Controls." The Findings Led Gov. Lamont To Call On McCrory To "Step Back" From His Senate Leadership Positions.** "Auditors also raised questions about whether Cicero and her businesses performed all of the work for which they were paid. 'The disbursement activity between BHCA and SHEBA Consulting, as well as directly to Ms. Cicero, reveals a troubling pattern of financial mismanagement, potential fraud, and a complete breakdown of internal controls,' the auditors wrote in their initial report, which was released in February. The auditors' warnings about potential fraud and the lack of financial controls within Blue Hills prompted Gov. Ned Lamont to call for reforms to how lawmakers routinely earmark money for nonprofits and other organizations. And it led the governor to call on McCrory to 'step back' from his leadership positions in the General Assembly, where he serves as chairman of the legislature's Education Committee." [Connecticut Mirror, 4/02/26]

### **EARMARK VOLUME IN THE STATE BUDGET**

**Connecticut's Two-Year State Budget Approved In 2025 Contained 321 Earmarks Across 16 Executive Branch Agencies Totaling Approximately \$89 Million - Plus \$25.6 Million In Earmarks For Nonprofit Youth Programs Distributed Through The Judicial Branch. The DECD Was Directed To Distribute 200 Of Those Earmarks.** "The legislature's budget office reported that the two-year state budget approved last year includes 321 earmarks across 16 executive branch agencies totaling approximately \$89 million. The state Department of Economic Community Development was directed to distribute 200 of those spending earmarks. This \$89 million total excludes \$25.6 million in earmarks to support nonprofit youth programs intended to reduce violence and involvement in the juvenile justice system that are distributed through the judicial branch. Members of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Issues Caucus select those recipients. [...] But the legislation does not require that individual legislators or groups of legislators requesting the earmark be identified. This was a condition that House and Senate Republicans had proposed to increase transparency." [Connecticut Post, 4/10/26]

### **CT MIRROR'S COMPREHENSIVE APRIL 2026 INVESTIGATION**

**An April 2026 Connecticut Mirror Investigation - Reviewing Thousands Of Internal Records And Interviewing Seven Former Employees - Found McCrory “Reshaped Blue Hills Into An Arm Of His Political Office And Used The Nonprofit To Direct State Taxpayer Money To Other Organizations, Some Of Which Were Operated By Close Acquaintances.”**. “The Connecticut Mirror reviewed thousands of internal records from the nonprofit and interviewed seven former Blue Hills employees and contractors in an effort to understand the events that preceded its collapse. That reporting reveals how state Sen. Doug McCrory, who has represented Hartford’s North End for more than two decades, reshaped Blue Hills into an arm of his political office and used the nonprofit to direct state taxpayer money to other organizations, some of which were operated by close acquaintances. Emails, meeting minutes and bank statements show that McCrory forged a relationship with Blue Hills’ executive director that enabled him to influence the spending of millions of dollars between 2022 and early 2025. Those documents also highlight how McCrory used that relationship to burnish his reputation as a politician who could deliver state funding to an impoverished community - by spending money on social events, small business grants and aid to ‘well-known’ members of the community. The message wasn’t always subtle. He once delivered a giant novelty check from Blue Hills to a local nonprofit - at a campaign event that he organized.” [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

**Per The April 2026 CT Mirror Investigation, The Forensic Audit Showed McCrory Helped Award More Than \$11 Million To Blue Hills Through Legislative Earmarks Between 2023 And 2025, But The Nonprofit Only Kept Roughly \$2.3 Million. The Rest Was Sent To Other Organizations And Individuals Based On McCrory’s Instructions.** “Ralph Knighton, a former economic development consultant for Blue Hills, said there seemed to be some type of agreement between Gallon-Clark and McCrory. Gallon-Clark, he said, gave McCrory a free hand to direct millions of dollars through Blue Hills, and, in return, McCrory ensured the nonprofit consistently received enough public funding to maintain and grow its own operations. The forensic audit released earlier this year showed that, between 2023 and 2025, McCrory helped to award more than \$11 million to Blue Hills through legislative earmarks, but the nonprofit only kept roughly \$2.3 million. The rest was sent to other organizations and individuals based on McCrory’s instructions.” [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

**Per The CT Mirror, In Early 2024, Blue Hills ED Vicki Gallon-Clark Described The Nonprofit As A “Conduit” Through Which McCrory Could “Funnel More Funding” Into The Community. Gallon-Clark Assembled Lists Of The Various Organizations That McCrory Was Considering Subgranting Money To, Titled “PER CONVERSATIONS WITH SENATOR MCCRORY.”**. “Internal documents from Blue Hills, however, show the influence McCrory exercised over the state taxpayer money that arrived in Blue Hills’ bank accounts between 2022 and 2025. Those records, which have been turned over to auditors and the FBI, include instances in which Gallon-Clark acknowledged McCrory’s influence over the funding. In one email from early 2024, for instance, Gallon-Clark described Blue Hills as a ‘conduit’ through which McCrory could ‘funnel more funding’ into the community. Documents show Gallon-Clark also assembled lists of the various organizations that McCrory was considering subgranting money to. ‘PER CONVERSATIONS WITH SENATOR MCCRORY,’ one of those lists was titled.” [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

**Per The CT Mirror, Blue Hills Paid SHEBA Consulting Half A Million Dollars To Advise On HR Policies. Auditor Matthew Burry Of Whittlesey Wrote To Gallon-Clark In March 2024 That “The Absence Of A Consulting Contract With SHEBA Awarded Through A Competitive Process Would Likely Raise Serious Issues, Including Questions About Whether The Compensation Was Excessive.” Five Minutes Later, Gallon-Clark Forwarded The Email To McCrory.** “During that same period, Blue Hills also paid half a million dollars to SHEBA Consulting in order for the company to advise the nonprofit on its human resources policies. That company is owned by Cicero, whose relationship with McCrory is now being examined by the FBI. Cicero’s businesses later received an additional \$1.2 million through Blue Hills in 2023 and 2024. In at least one of those cases, the records show Blue Hills’ auditors privately questioned the size and scope of those expenditures. [...] Matthew Burry, an accountant with Whittlesey who was reviewing Blue Hills expenditures, emailed Gallon-Clark in March 2024 to flag several potential issues with one of the two \$600,000 payments that Cicero’s businesses received. Burry explained to Gallon-Clark that it was unwise to award Cicero’s company that amount of money without having a contract in place that stipulated what type of work she would perform. He also warned Gallon-Clark that a consulting contract of that size, which was funded exclusively with state taxpayer money, may need to be put out to bid so other businesses could compete for the work. ‘There is the issue of how BHCA would justify a \$600,000 consulting expenditure,’ Burry wrote. ‘The absence of a consulting contract with SHEBA awarded through a competitive process would likely raise serious issues, including questions about whether the compensation was excessive in relation to the benefit received by BHCA,’ he added. Five minutes after Gallon-Clark received that email, she forwarded the message to McCrory.” [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

## **SPENDING ON INDIVIDUALS, EVENTS, AND CAMPAIGN OPTICS**

**Per The CT Mirror, McCrory Used Blue Hills Funds To Wire \$4,000 For A New Furnace To A “Well Known Senior” In Hartford, And Tens Of Thousands More To A Restaurant, Coffee Shop, And Dentist’s Office. Gallon-Clark Wrote In Recipient Emails: “This Is Made Possible Through The Advocacy Efforts Of Senator McCrory.”** “When a ‘well known senior’ in Hartford needed a new furnace for their house, McCrory was able to instruct Gallon-Clark to wire them \$4,000 to help cover the expense. He also directed tens of thousands of dollars to a select group of small businesses that approached the senator seeking financial assistance. That included a restaurant, a coffee shop and a dentist’s office. Gallon-Clark was always quick to remind those recipients of who they could thank when the money came through. ‘This is made possible through the advocacy efforts of Senator McCrory,’ she frequently wrote in emails.” [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

**Per The CT Mirror, McCrory Arranged For Blue Hills To Spend More Than \$21,000 In State Taxpayer Money To Rent Out The Hartford Stage And Give Away Tickets For The Premiere Of “Two Trains Running,” Which He Attended Alongside Cicero-Hamlin. Blue Hills Also Contributed \$20,000 Of State Funds To A “When Black Men Lead” Event That McCrory Co-Hosted With Then-Rep. Brandon McGee.** “In early 2025, McCrory also used part of the money he awarded to Blue Hills to pay for several social events, which the senator was publicly credited with sponsoring and organizing. McCrory arranged for Blue Hills to spend more than \$21,000 in taxpayer money to rent out the Hartford Stage and to give away tickets for the premiere of the play ‘Two Trains Running,’ which he attended alongside Cicero. He also instructed Blue Hills and another nonprofit to spend thousands of dollars on a local entertainment and marketing firm to promote the event. ‘Senator McCrory has made arrangements to rent the entire Hartford Stage Theatre for community agencies, seniors, students and churches,’ Gallon-Clark explained in an email. Several weeks later, Blue Hills also contributed \$20,000 to the inaugural ‘When Black Men Lead’ event, which McCrory was credited with hosting alongside former state Democratic lawmaker Brandon McGee. McGee, who is now the executive director of Connecticut’s Social Equity Council, said the money Blue Hills contributed helped to pay for scholarships, which were awarded as part of the event. And he said McCrory was involved because he is a ‘senior statesman’ in Hartford. McGee said that he was never informed that the \$20,000 that Blue Hills contributed came from state grant funding. ‘We were told that these are funds for the community, to support the community, and I didn’t ask any other questions of it,’ McGee said.” [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

**Per The CT Mirror, In June 2024 - During McCrory’s Competitive Democratic Primary - He Organized A Political Campaign Event To Present A Giant Blue Hills Novelty Check To Angel Of Edgewood, A Hartford Nonprofit. ED Jendayi Scott-Miller Said McCrory Called Gallon-Clark From His Capitol Office And Wired Her \$10,000 Within Two Days. The State Has Since Frozen All Funding To Angel Of Edgewood.** “At times, the line between Blue Hills and McCrory’s political office became difficult to distinguish. In June 2024, for instance, McCrory organized a political campaign event in which he presented a giant Blue Hills check to Angel of Edgewood, a small nonprofit that provides food, clothing and other emergency assistance to families in Hartford’s North End. That summer, McCrory was locked in a competitive Democratic primary for his senate seat. Jendayi Scott-Miller, the founder and director of Angel of Edgewood, said she received the funding from Blue Hills after visiting the state Capitol earlier that year. She said she was at the legislature seeking money to help cover a security deposit for a space that could temporarily house the nonprofit’s commercial kitchen when McCrory approached her. According to Scott-Miller, McCrory invited her to his legislative office and explained that he could solve her funding needs. All she needed to do was ask, he said. [...] But McCrory proposed a different solution, she said. According to Scott-Miller, McCrory called up Gallon-Clark during their meeting and instructed Blue Hills’ executive director to wire \$10,000 to Angel of Edgewood. Not for the likes of this world did I think this is something that would turn into this fiasco, this whole blowup, this catastrophe, with the FBI and subpoenas and investigations and interviews. Beverley Hines [...] Before leaving McCrory’s office, Scott-Miller said, she gave Gallon-Clark her banking information, and less than two days later, bank records reviewed by CT Mirror show the money was in her account. The decision to accept that money, however, is something that Scott-Miller has come to regret, she said. Shortly after the meeting in McCrory’s office, Scott-Miller was approached by FBI agents, who began asking her questions about McCrory and how money moves through Hartford’s nonprofits, she told the CT Mirror. And earlier this year, the state froze all public funding to Angel of Edgewood as part of the ongoing audit of Blue Hills and the organizations it subgranted money to.” [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

## **MCCRORY’S WTNH DEFENSE**

**In A March 15, 2026 WTNH Television Interview, McCrory Denied He Was Ever Involved In Day-To-Day Operations At Blue Hills, Said “I Don’t Monitor What Goes On At Blue Hills. It’s Not My Job,” And Suggested The Nonprofit Could “Bounce Back” - All Despite Records Showing His Heavy Involvement.** “But in a recent television interview, McCrory denied that he was ever involved in the day-to-day operations at Blue Hills, and he argued that his relationship with the nonprofit was no different than any other politician who advocates for organizations in their community. ‘I don’t monitor what goes on at Blue Hills. It’s not my job. I’m not into the day-to-day operations of that organization,’ McCrory

said during the March 15 televised interview on WTNH. [...] During his recent appearance on WTNH, McCrory suggested that Blue Hills could still be resurrected. ‘Unfortunately, it fell into some hard times, but it can bounce back, and our community can bounce back from that,’ McCrory said.” [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

**Forensic Audit Found McCrory Helped Direct \$11 Million To Blue Hills Through Earmarks Between 2023-2025, But The Nonprofit Only Kept Roughly \$2.3 Million — The Rest Was Pass-Through To Outside Entities.** “Between 2023 and 2025, McCrory helped to award more than \$11 million to Blue Hills through legislative earmarks, but the nonprofit only kept roughly \$2.3 million. State Sen. Doug McCrory, who has represented Hartford’s North End for more than two decades, reshaped Blue Hills into an arm of his political office and used the nonprofit to direct state taxpayer money to other organizations.” [CT Mirror, 4/26/26]

## FOIA PRIVILEGE DISPUTES AND MCCRORY’S SEIZED PHONE

**In April 2026, Connecticut Senate Democrats Argued In A Freedom Of Information Commission Case That “Legislative Privilege” Shielded McCrory’s Communications From Public Records Disclosure - Including Messages Between McCrory And Cicero-Hamlin. Longtime FOIC Executive Director Colleen Murphy Called The Constitutional Immunity Claims “Troubling.”** “In a separate case, the attorney for Senate Democrats argued the legislative branch is similarly protected from disclosure requirements. ‘Legislative privilege exemption, to my understanding of it, applies to those legislative activities which are involved with the generation, or at the feet of, legislation,’ Joe Quinn, general counsel for Senate Democrats, told an FOIC hearing officer March 4. ‘Budget-related documents ... would qualify for the legislative privilege exemption if they were deemed to be responsive.’ That dispute centers on a request by CT Insider for communications involving state Sen. Doug McCrory, including messages between McCrory and Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin. Records previously obtained by CT Insider show McCrory steered millions in state grants to companies owned by her and that state spending is now under question by federal investigators. A state-funded audit also found he directed \$1.7 million to her for ‘questionable expenses’ and work that was never done. While refusing to define the nature of his relationship with Cicero-Hamlin, McCrory has said he has done nothing illegal.” [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 4/27/26]

**An April 2026 CT Insider Investigation Found McCrory’s Personal Phone Was “Seized” By Federal Investigators “In Conjunction With The Reported About Grand Jury Investigation,” Per His Own Attorney’s Argument Before The Connecticut Freedom Of Information Commission. McCrory Failed To Produce Work-Related Records From His Private Accounts.** “State Sen. Doug McCrory – who has been linked to state spending under question by federal investigators and a state-funded audit showing he directed \$1.7 million to a close associate for ‘questionable expenses’ and work that was never done – has also failed to produce work-related records from his private accounts and phone in response to CT Insider that could clarify the matter. CT Insider filed a complaint with the state’s Freedom of Information Commission seeking to compel McCrory to release the records. During a hearing in April, his attorney argued that staff for the legislature does not have access to the senator’s private accounts and relied on McCrory himself to search for records – with no independent verification. ‘After he did whatever he did, my understanding was he had nothing that was responsive,’ Joe Quinn, general counsel for Senate Democrats, argued about the senator’s personal email and social media messages. ‘I made [it] clear it was not my responsibility – it was his – to search those.’ Yet records obtained from other agencies show McCrory regularly uses his private email and phone for public business, raising questions about whether responsive records were ever fully searched. His attorney argued on McCrory’s behalf ‘his phone was seized’ by federal investigators ‘in conjunction, I believe, with the reported about grand jury investigation’ as a possible explanation for no text messages being turned over.” [Connecticut Post (CT Insider), 4/27/26]

## EARMARK REFORM LEGISLATION PASSES

**On April 9, 2026, The Connecticut House Voted Unanimously (141-0) For An Earmark Transparency Reform Bill Following The McCrory FBI Probe. The Forensic Audit Found McCrory “Stands Accused” Of Steering At Least \$1.7 Million Through Blue Hills To Benefit Cicero-Hamlin.** “House members voted unanimously Thursday to send to the state Senate an earmark transparency bill that Gov. Ned Lamont proposed to establish uniform policies and procedures for how state agencies distribute and oversee legislatively directed funds. The governor’s bill is modeled after a policy that Lamont instituted in February. Earmark spending has come under more intensive scrutiny following the release of a forensic state audit that found potential fraud involving the use of earmarked state funds at a Hartford-based nonprofit community organization linked to a local state senator and the public disclosure of a related FBI investigation into the senator’s role in delivering the funds and directing how the money was spent. State Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, stands accused in a state-funded audit of using his position as a state senator to steer at least \$1.7 million in taxpayer funds through the now defunct Blue Hills Civic Association to benefit one of his close associates, Sonserae Cicero-Hamlin. Federal prosecutors are also conducting a grand jury investigation probing that personal relationship and

the connection with state grants. McCrory has denied any wrongdoing related to the state funds that he directed to the Blue Hills Civic Association. He has not been charged criminally, nor has anyone else in the matter.” [Connecticut Post, 4/10/26]

**On May 4, 2026, The Connecticut Senate Unanimously Passed Final Earmark Reform Legislation Directly Responding To McCrory’s Conduct. The State Audit Showed McCrory Sent More Than \$11 Million In Legislative Earmarks To Blue Hills, Then Instructed The Nonprofit To Send Much Of It To Other Organizations And Businesses.** “The Connecticut Senate gave final passage to a bill Monday to increase transparency around legislative earmarks and to address a political scandal created by one of their own members. The bill, which unanimously passed the Senate, will mandate additional documentation and reporting requirements from any entity that receives legislatively-directed funds - more commonly known as earmarks. That legislation, which was pushed by Gov. Ned Lamont and passed by the House on a unanimous vote last month, is a direct response to the actions of Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford. A state audit released earlier this year showed that McCrory sent more than \$11 million in legislative earmarks to the Blue Hills Civic Association, a community nonprofit that served part of his district in the North End of Hartford, and then instructed that organization to send much of that money on other nonprofits and businesses. McCrory, who is also the subject of an ongoing FBI investigation, has denied any wrongdoing, but his influence at the Blue Hills Civic Association prompted Lamont to call for the senior Democratic senator to ‘step back’ from his leadership roles in the General Assembly earlier this year. He has not.” [Connecticut Mirror, 5/04/26]

## **McCRORY’S CREC EMPLOYER CONFLICT**

### **DUAL ROLE AT CREC AND SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**In Late 2025, Records Confirmed McCrory’s Employment At CREC As Director Of Family And Community Engagement, A Position In The Same Education Sector He Oversees As Senate Education Chair.** “Doug McCrory is a vice principal for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), and he is currently employed by CREC as the director of family and community engagement. The central conflict involves McCrory’s dual roles as both a legislator and CREC employee. As Senate Chair of the Education Committee, McCrory oversees policy and funding decisions affecting his employer.” [Wilton Bulletin / Hearst CT, 8/2025]

**In Early 2026, Gov. Lamont Line-Item Vetoed A \$750,000 Earmark McCrory Had Lobbied For That Would Have Gone To His Employer, Capitol Region Education Council (CREC).** “Gov. Ned Lamont’s line-item veto of earmarks cut \$750,000 from McCrory’s employer, CREC, and blocked a \$330,000 grant to a nonprofit in his district, Our Piece of the Pie. Records showed McCrory was lobbying for a \$750,000 earmark that would get money directed to his employer as of last August. CREC is linked to McCrory through his job there as director of family and community engagement, which has raised questions about conflicts of interest.” [Hearst CT / Wilton Bulletin, 2/2026]

### **SENATE CODIFICATION OF THE CREC EARMARK**

**In February 2026, The Connecticut General Assembly Was Set To Codify A \$750,000 Earmark For The Capitol Region Education Council - McCrory’s Employer - Despite Federal Probe And Audit Findings. CT Insider Records Showed McCrory Had Been Lobbying For The Earmark Since August 2025, Pressuring DOE To Direct The Funds Solely To CREC Over The Connecticut Education Association’s And Quinnipiac University’s Objections.** “The Democrat-controlled Senate on Wednesday is scheduled to codify several grants to nonprofits and school-based agencies, including \$750,000 for the Capital Region Education Council in Hartford, where state Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, works in the central office. A draft summary of the bill circulated Monday specifies that funding for a teacher residency program would be limited to CREC. Confusion arose over the funding last year and the action by the legislature is meant to solidify its commitment to directing this funding to CREC. Records obtained by CT Insider through an open records request showed McCrory was lobbying for the \$750,000 earmark that would get the money directed to his employer as of last August. [...] Records indicate McCrory has been involved in lobbying the state Department of Education to send CREC the entire \$750,000, despite objections from the state’s largest teachers union and the dean of Quinnipiac University’s School of Education. ‘Senator McCrory is asserting those funds be directed only to the CREC program,’ said Kate Dias, president of the Connecticut Education Association, who wrote state Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker and Quinnipiac Dean Anne M. Dichele last August.” [Connecticut Post, 2/25/26]

**A State Education Department Official Wrote To Commissioner Russell-Tucker’s Chief Of Staff, Laura Stefon, In August 2025: “I Just Want To Verify What You Stated, And That Is The Commissioner And Sen. McCrory State (That) This \$750,000 Earmark Is For CREC Only?” Stefon Confirmed Three Days Later. The Next Day, News Broke**

**Of The Federal Subpoenas.** “Records also show an official at the state education department wrote to Russell-Tucker’s chief of staff, Laura Stefon, in August. ‘I just want to verify what you stated, and that is the commissioner and Sen. McCrory state (that) this \$750,000 earmark is for CREC only?’ the official asked. Stefon responded three days later, records show. ‘During the legislative session, it was made quite clear to the commissioner and to me exactly which program that money was intended for, and it was CREC,’ she wrote Aug. 4. The next day, news broke that the state’s economic development agency and minority business council had been subpoenaed by federal authorities, who were probing the nature of the senator’s relationship with Cicero-Hamlin and the state funding her organizations received.” [Connecticut Post, 2/25/26]

## KEVIN HENRY & HARTFORD NETWORK CONNECTIONS

### HENRY’S CAMPAIGN AND CANNABIS TIES TO MCCRORY

**Hartford Attorney And Cannabis Entrepreneur Kevin T. Henry, Named In Federal Subpoenas Tied To The McCrory-Cicero Probe, Served As McCrory’s Deputy Treasurer During The 2018 Senate Campaign.** “Hartford based attorney and cannabis entrepreneur Kevin T. Henry, who is named in federal subpoenas seeking information on Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, and millions of dollars sent to Hartford-based nonprofits, served as McCrory’s deputy treasurer during his 2018 state senate campaign and donated to McCrory’s 2022 and 2024 campaigns. Henry is named in the subpoenas both personally and through his consulting company, KTH Advisors, LLC.” [Inside Investigator, 8/12/25]

**Kevin T. Henry Donated \$500 In 2015 To The Probate Judge Campaign Of Foye Smith, McCrory’s Then-Wife, Per SEEC Records.** “Records from the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC) show that, aside of working for McCrory’s campaign in 2018, in 2015 Henry donated \$500 toward the committee to elect Foye Smith, who was McCrory’s wife at the time, to become a probate judge. He also donated \$290 and \$250 to McCrory’s 2022 and 2024 campaigns, respectively.” [Inside Investigator, 8/12/25]

**Kevin Henry Was Listed As A Guest Speaker For Sonserae Cicero’s 2022 “Social Equity Conference Program” Held At The Artists’ Collective In Hartford Under Her Company Melanated Marijuana.** “Henry was also listed as a guest speaker for Cicero’s 2022 ‘Social Equity Conference Program,’ held at the Artists’ Collective in Hartford, along with several members of Connecticut’s Social Equity Council. The program was offered under her company, Melanated Marijuana, which purports to offer training and small business tools for cannabis startups.” [Inside Investigator, 8/12/25]

### HENRY’S LAW PARTNERSHIP AND HEDCO CONNECTION

**Kevin Henry Shares A Law Partnership With Kevin R. Joiner, Whose Office Represented McCrory’s Ex-Wife Foye Smith In Their 2020 Divorce And Has Represented HEDCO In Defaulted Loan Cases Since 2021.** “Henry shares a law partnership with fellow attorney Kevin R. Joiner, whose law office not only represented McCrory’s ex-wife during their 2020 divorce, but has also represented the Hartford Economic Development Corporation (HEDCO) in nearly a dozen court cases since 2021 seeking repayment of defaulted loans. Joiner was listed as the agent for KTH Advisors, according to state business records. Joiner has not been named in any capacity in the federal subpoenas.” [Inside Investigator, 8/12/25]

### KTH ADVISORS CONSULTING PAYMENTS FROM BLUE HILLS

**Per The CT Mirror, Records Showed Blue Hills Paid KTH Advisors - Owned By Kevin T. Henry, McCrory’s Former Campaign Treasurer - Roughly \$11,000 Per Month For Consulting Services Between October 2023 And April 2025. During The First Five Months Of That Engagement, Henry Couldn’t Practice Law Because His License Was Suspended For Failing To Pay An Annual Fee.** “The taxpayer money that McCrory helped to secure for Blue Hills was also spent on several consulting firms, which are now being investigated by the FBI. Records show Blue Hills paid KTH Advisors, a company owned by Kevin Henry, McCrory’s former campaign treasurer, roughly \$11,000 per month for consulting services between October 2023 and April 2025. It’s not clear what type of work Henry, who is an attorney, performed as part of that consulting agreement. There are emails that Henry was copied on in which Blue Hills staff discussed state and federal grants and several proposed development projects. McCrory also floated the possibility of Henry starting a new program at Blue Hills to help people obtain judicial pardons. But the invoices Henry submitted to Gallon-Clark did not include any detail on what assistance he provided to Blue Hills month to month. Meanwhile, the two contracts that Henry signed with Blue Hills in 2023 and 2024 described his services as ‘consultations, meetings, phone calls, emails, participation in negotiations, and the development of business strategies related to local, state, political, and community engagement.’ [...] During the first five months that Henry was reportedly advising Blue Hills, judicial records

also show that he couldn't practice law. His license was suspended due to a failure to pay an annual fee, which is required of every practicing lawyer in the state." [Connecticut Mirror, 4/26/26]

## STATE LEGISLATURE

### MISSED VOTES

*NOTE: Absences vs. abstentions on the Senate floor. Because the Senate clerk records both absences and deliberate abstentions as "Not Voting," some votes where McCrory was likely present but declined to register a position are included as missed votes.*

**Across His Available Legislative Voting Record (2011-2026), McCrory Missed 723 Of 8,811 Recorded Votes — An 8.2% Lifetime Missed-Vote Rate.** The rate splits sharply by chamber and venue: 12.3% missed on House floor votes (268 of 2,182, recorded as Absent, 2011-Feb 2017); 3.0% missed on Senate floor votes (114 of 3,837, recorded as Not Voting, Feb 2017-2026); and 12.2% missed on joint committee tally-sheet votes during his Senate tenure (341 of 2,792, recorded as Absent, active-membership-filtered). McCrory's first six years in the Connecticut House (2005-2010) are not in the available data export and are not reflected in any percentage in this document. [Plural Policy / Connecticut General Assembly Vote Export For Doug McCrory, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

### HOUSE FLOOR MISSED-VOTE RATE BY YEAR

Year	House Floor Votes	Missed (Absent)	Missed %
2005-2010	Not available	—	—
2011	343	82	23.9%
2012	265	52	19.6%
2013	445	76	17.1%
2014	327	23	7.0%
2015	376	21	5.6%
2016	396	10	2.5%
2017 (Jan-Feb partial)	30	4	13.3%
<b>TOTAL (2011-2017)</b>	<b>2,182</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>12.3%</b>

*NOTE: Years 2005-2010 were not available. Roughly the first half of McCrory's House tenure is therefore not reflected in this analysis. The 2017 (Jan-Feb partial) row reflects only the House floor votes McCrory cast before he was sworn into the State Senate in early February 2017 to fill the vacancy left by Sen. Eric Coleman.*

**During His Connecticut House Tenure On Record (2011-Feb 2017), McCrory Missed 268 Of 2,182 House Floor Votes — A 12.3% House Floor Missed-Vote Rate.** McCrory's House floor missed-vote rate is roughly four times his subsequent Senate floor missed-vote rate of 3.0% (114 of 3,837 floor votes, 2017-2026). The available record does not include McCrory's first six House years (2005-2010). [Plural Policy / Connecticut General Assembly Vote Export For Doug McCrory, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

### STATE SENATE TENURE (FEB 2017-PRESENT)

**McCrory Was Appointed Deputy President Pro Tempore Of The Connecticut Senate Upon His Swearing-In In March 2017 — A Senate Democratic Caucus Leadership Position He Has Held Continuously Through Every Subsequent Two-Year Session.** "DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE / LIFTING AS WE CLIMB." Per his official Senate Democrats biography page, McCrory carries the leadership title "Deputy President Pro Tempore" and the personal motto "Lifting As We Climb." The Senate Democrats' senate-wide leadership chart lists him as one of several Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore caucusing under Pro Tempore Martin Looney and Majority Leader Bob Duff. [Connecticut Senate Democrats, Doug McCrory Bio Page, accessed 5/11/26]

**McCrory Has Served As Senate Chair Of The Education Committee Continuously Since His February 2017 Swearing-In And Was Most Recently Reappointed Education Chair For The 2025–2026 Legislative Sessions.** "Senator Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, has been reappointed as Senate Chair of the Education Committee for the 2025-2026 legislative sessions." His role as Senate Education chair predates his Senate service: McCrory was previously a

senior member of the House Education Committee during his House tenure (2005–2017). [Connecticut Senate Democrats, "Senator Doug McCrory Reappointed as Chair of the Education Committee," accessed 5/11/26]

**McCrory's Senate Committee Assignments For The 2025–2026 Sessions: Education (Chair), Appropriations, Energy & Technology, Housing, And Vice Chair Of Both Government Administration & Elections And Public Health.** Per his official Senate Democrats biography page, McCrory's committee assignments include Senate Chair of Education, member of Appropriations (responsible for drafting the state budget), Energy & Technology, and Housing, plus Vice Chair of Government Oversight and Vice Chair of Public Health. [Connecticut Senate Democrats, Doug McCrory Bio Page, accessed 5/11/26]

## SENATE FLOOR AND JOINT COMMITTEE MISSED-VOTE RATE BY YEAR

Year	Sen. Floor Votes	Sen. Floor Missed (NV)	Sen. Floor Missed %	Joint Cmte. Votes	Joint Cmte. Missed (Absent)	Joint Cmte. Missed %
2017	447	4	0.9%	197	8	4.1%
2018	482	3	0.6%	315	50	15.9%
2019	450	7	1.6%	392	61	15.6%
2020 (COVID short session)	80	33	41.3%	57	2	3.5%
2021	471	3	0.6%	275	66	24.0%
2022	394	4	1.0%	244	27	11.1%
2023	507	4	0.8%	324	30	9.3%
2024	338	3	0.9%	176	1	0.6%
2025	435	49	11.3%	484	84	17.4%
2026 (in progress)	233	4	1.7%	328	12	3.7%
<b>TOTAL (2017-2026)</b>	<b>3,837</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>2,792</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>12.2%</b>

*NOTE: Senate floor "Missed" counts Not Voting recordings, the Senate clerk's label for non-voting (the chamber does not use "Absent"). Joint committee figures cover only committees on which McCrory was a sitting member that session.*

**Across His Senate Tenure On Record (Feb 2017-April 2026), McCrory Missed 114 Of 3,837 Senate Floor Votes — A 3.0% Senate Floor Missed-Vote Rate.** Connecticut's Senate clerk does not use the "Absent" designation; non-voting is recorded as "Not Voting." Of McCrory's 114 Senate floor missed votes, an estimated 70 occurred on 4 full-day absences (days when McCrory cast zero Yea or Nay) and the remaining 44 occurred on 24 days when he was likely present but declined to vote on specific bills. [Plural Policy / Connecticut General Assembly Vote Export For Doug McCrory, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

**McCrory's Senate Floor Missed-Vote Rate Spiked To 41.3% In The 2020 Session And 11.3% In The 2025 Session, Compared To Less Than 2% In Every Other Year On Record.** In the 2020 COVID-shortened session, McCrory missed 33 of 80 Senate floor votes (41.3%); 30 of those were on a single day, February 26, 2020, and 3 more were on March 4, 2020 — neither day shows any other recorded McCrory votes, consistent with full-day absences. In the 2025 session, McCrory missed 49 of 435 Senate floor votes (11.3%); 34 of those were on a single day, January 28, 2025 — all on judicial confirmation resolutions and a public employee union agreement, with no other McCrory votes recorded that day, again consistent with a full-day absence rather than deliberate abstention. In all other years on record, McCrory's Senate floor missed-vote rate was at or below 1.7%. [Plural Policy / Connecticut General Assembly Vote Export For Doug McCrory, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

**McCrory's Joint Committee Missed-Vote Rate During His Senate Tenure Is 12.2% — 341 Missed Of 2,792 Joint Committee Tally-Sheet Votes (2017-2026).** McCrory's highest committee-absence years are 2021 (24.0%, 66 of 275), 2025 (17.4%, 84 of 484), 2018 (15.9%, 50 of 315), and 2019 (15.6%, 61 of 392). His lowest are 2024 (0.6%, 1 of 176) and 2026-to-date (3.7%, 12 of 328). Joint committees use the House recording convention (Absent rather than Not Voting). [Plural Policy / Connecticut General Assembly Vote Export For Doug McCrory, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

**In 2021, McCrory Was Absent For Nearly Half Of Appropriations Committee Votes — Missing 47 Of 101 (46.5%).** McCrory also missed 18 of 77 Government Administration & Elections Committee votes that year (23.4%). Appropriations is the General Assembly's primary budget-writing committee. [Plural Policy / Connecticut General Assembly Vote Export For Doug McCrory, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

**In 2025, McCrory Was Absent For 70.0% Of Planning & Development Committee Votes And 30.8% Of Housing Committee Votes.** McCrory was Absent for 49 of 70 Planning & Development Committee tally-sheet votes (70.0%), 20 of 65 Housing Committee votes (30.8%), and 9 of 18 Energy & Technology Committee votes (50.0%). His 2025 Education Committee attendance, by contrast, was perfect: 46 Yea votes and no absences. McCrory serves as Senate Chair of the Education Committee. [Plural Policy / Connecticut General Assembly Vote Export For Doug McCrory, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

## POLITICAL INFORMATION

### POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

#### HARTFORD DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

**In March 2012, McCrory Led A 15-Member Slate To Sweep Hartford's 7th District Democratic Town Committee Race By A 2-To-1 Margin Over Two Other Slates, With McCrory Saying "The Town Committee Was Stagnant. It Wasn't Doing The Job It Was Supposed To Do."** "A slate of 15 Democrats swept to victory Tuesday in a three-way race for seats in the Democratic Town Committee's 7th District. The slate, which was composed of state Rep. Douglas McCrory; Kenneth P. Green; Luverne Mott; Kevin R. Brookman; Gwendolyn V. Bailey; Evelyn Cortez; Gregory Covington; Barbara Diggs; Victoria L. Fennell; Joshua Malik Hall; Solomon O. Hall; Michael James Harris; Dawn L. Kardulis; Estella V. Knight; and Marc H. Lucier beat out two other slates by wide margins, according to official results from the town and city clerk's office. 'We always go into an election expecting to win, but we never thought we would win by a two-to-one margin against two different slates,' McCrory, D-Hartford, said Wednesday. 'It shows the support we have from our community.' McCrory, who is the only incumbent on his slate, said he chose to run with others who weren't already serving on the town committee because the district needed a change in leadership. 'The town committee was stagnant,' he said. 'It wasn't doing the job it was supposed to do.'" [Hartford Courant, 3/08/12]

**In February 2014, McCrory's Slate Faced A 16-Candidate Challenge In The 7th District Town Committee Race - With Challengers Saying Current Members "Aren't Visible Enough In The Neighborhoods" - Though Challenger Louis Watkins Singled Out The State Representative As An Exception, Saying "Aside From Our State Representative, But He's Busy."** "Watkins said the challengers want stronger representation in the 7th District. He said current town committee members aren't visible enough in the neighborhoods and at local meetings. The challengers also want to develop better connections with the mayor and city council, he said. 'We just want a little more neighborhood representation,' Watkins said. 'We don't feel the elected officials we have are in the neighborhoods to tend to neighborhood concerns, aside from our state representative, but he's busy. We know a lot of folks in the neighborhoods and what's going on in our community. At one time, the 7th District was the strongest voting neighborhood because we kept people informed. We want to bring that back to the city and to the Democratic Party.' McCrory dismissed claims that the committee members are out of touch. 'We do a great deal of outreach,' he said. 'We're active on civic boards and NRZs. We have a member on our [Democratic] State Central Committee.' Members are also trying to develop younger talent, McCrory said. To that end, the slate includes newcomers Clarke and Thames." [Hartford Courant, 2/24/14]

**In March 2014, Most Of McCrory's Town Committee Slate Was Defeated In A 7th District Shakeup - 14 Of 16 Challengers Won Seats - Though McCrory Personally Survived. Challengers Had Complained Town Committee Members "Lost Touch With The Needs Of Residents."** "Fourteen challengers from the city's 7th District trounced their opponents -- mostly incumbents -- on Tuesday to win seats on the Democratic town committee. Two incumbents won re-election. [...] Incumbents Douglas McCrory and Kenneth Green, who ran on the opposing slate, won spots on the town committee. McGregor received the most votes, with 311, followed by Watkins, with 307, according to unofficial numbers. [...] About 8 percent of the city's registered Democrats in the 7th District cast votes in the election, officials said Tuesday. [...] McCrory, who is a state representative for the city's 7th District, said the slate's loss isn't a reflection of his colleagues' involvement in the neighborhoods. He said he is happy with the work members did over the last two years. 'I think we did everything we were supposed to do,' McCrory said Tuesday. 'I don't think it's an indication of our work efforts.'" [Hartford Courant, 3/05/14]

#### HARTFORD MAYOR

**In August 2015, McCrory Endorsed Then-First-Time Candidate Luke Bronin Over Incumbent Mayor Pedro Segarra In The Democratic Mayoral Primary, Saying After Bronin's Win That "The North End Put Him In Office. And I Want To Be Clear About That. It Is Clear That The Votes Up In North Hartford Were The Reason Why He Won This Election."** "But state Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, who endorsed Bronin in August, was emphatic where Bronin's

pitch was heard the loudest. 'The North End put him in office,' McCrory said. 'And I want to be clear about that. It is clear that the votes up in north Hartford were the reason why he won this election.' A QUESTION OF TRUST. Did it matter that Bronin is white? 'All politics is local, and of course race plays a part in every election,' McCrory said. His wife, Foye Smith, who won the Democratic primary for probate judge, was part of Bronin's endorsed slate, which included several black candidates with ties to north Hartford. When Bronin began his mayoral run, there was a perception of him 'as a white candidate from Greenwich who wants to come in here and be a knight in shining armor who will fix the city,' McCrory said. Bronin was largely raised in affluent Greenwich. 'That's the first thought. The second thought is, OK, now let me listen to his message,' McCrory said. 'My questions were: Why should I trust you, or why should my community trust you?'" [Hartford Courant, 9/20/15]

**In January 2019, McCrory's Name "Surfaced" As A Possible Democratic Challenger To Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin. McCrory Did Not Return Two Telephone Calls From The Courant Seeking Comment.** "The names of two Democratic state legislators also have surfaced: Sen. Douglas McCrory and Rep. Brandon McGee Jr. McCrory represents the 2nd Senate District, which straddles Hartford, Windsor and Bloomfield. He was unopposed in the November elections after winning a special election in 2017 to fill the seat vacated by Eric Coleman. Previously, McCrory served six terms as a state representative. He did not return two telephone calls seeking comment Tuesday." [Hartford Courant, 1/23/19]

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

### FUNDRAISING HISTORY

#### CYCLE-BY-CYCLE TOTALS

Cycle	CEP Grants	Other Receipts	Total Raised	% Public
2010 (HD-7)	\$59,760	\$6,195	\$65,955	90.6%
2012 (HD-7)	\$27,050	\$8,293	\$35,343	76.5%
2014 (HD-7)	\$44,076	\$5,991	\$50,067	88.0%
2016 (transition)	\$0	\$25	\$25	—
2017 (SD-2, first Senate)	\$71,783	\$19,838	\$91,621	78.3%
2018	\$0	\$1,305	\$1,305	—
2020 (SD-2)	\$31,167	\$18,712	\$49,879	62.5%
2022 (SD-2)	\$33,929	\$20,203	\$54,132	62.7%
2024 (SD-2 contested primary)	\$233,600	\$21,754	\$255,354	91.5%
2026 (in progress)	\$0 to date	\$5,736	\$5,736	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$501,364</b>	<b>\$108,053</b>	<b>\$609,416</b>	<b>82.3%</b>

#### DONORS CONNECTED TO THE ACTIVE FEDERAL PROBE

**Sonserae Cicero, The SHEBA Consulting Founder Whose Companies Received ~\$1.7 Million Through Blue Hills Civic Association And Who Is The Subject Of An Ongoing Federal Criminal Probe Alongside McCrory, Personally Donated \$250 To McCrory's Senate Campaign On January 11, 2020.** McCrory for Senate received a \$250 itemized contribution from Sonserae Cicero of Bloomfield, CT on 1/11/2020, with employer listed as "SHEBA" and occupation "Professional." Cicero is identified by CT Mirror as the subject of a federal criminal investigation; the auditor for Blue Hills Civic Association concluded in January 2026 that disbursements to Cicero's businesses revealed "a troubling pattern of financial mismanagement, potential fraud, and a complete breakdown of internal controls." [CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26]

**Maurice Morgan, Identified In Two McCrory Filings As An Employee Of Cicero's SHEBA Consulting, Donated \$200 In 2022 And \$250 In 2024 To McCrory's Senate Campaign.** McCrory for Senate received a \$200 contribution from Maurice Morgan listing his employer as "SHEBA Consulting LLC" [sic], occupation "Hr consultant," during the 2022 cycle. McCrory For Senate received a second \$250 contribution from Maurice Morgan during the 2024 cycle listing his employer as "SHEBA Consulting Firm." [CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26]

**Vicki Gallon-Clark, The Blue Hills Civic Association Executive Director Whose Tenure Coincides With The Period Under Federal Investigation, Donated \$100 To McCrory's Senate Campaign On October 28, 2020.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 contribution from Vicki Gallon-Clark of Hartford, CT on 10/28/2020 (filed 11/2/2020), with employer listed as "Blue Hills Civic Association" and occupation "Executive Director." [CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26]

**Kevin T. Henry, McCrory's Former Deputy Treasurer And A Hartford Attorney Named In Federal Subpoenas Tied To The McCrory–Cicero Probe, Donated A Cumulative \$640 To McCrory's Campaigns Across Three Cycles.** McCrory for Senate received contributions from Kevin Henry/Kevin T. Henry of Hartford, CT listing his employer as "PKV" or "PKV, LLC" and occupation "Attorney" on the following dates: 8/11/2020 (\$100), 7/21/2022 (\$290 — at the CEP qualifying-contribution maximum for State Senate), and 1/10/2024 (\$250). Inside Investigator [reported](#) that Henry served as McCrory's deputy treasurer in 2018 and that "Blue Hills paid KTH Advisors, a company owned by Kevin Henry, McCrory's former campaign treasurer, roughly \$11,000 per month for consulting services between October 2023 and April 2025." [CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26]

## CHARTER SCHOOL AND EDUCATION REFORM DONORS

**Dacia Toll, The Co-CEO And Co-Founder Of Achievement First — The Largest Charter Network Operating In Connecticut — Has Personally Donated To McCrory's Campaigns In Two Cycles.** Itemized contributions list Dacia Toll, employer Achievement First, occupation Educator, donating to Campaign Mccrory 2010 (\$100, listed in Title Case as "DACIA TOLL") and to McCrory for Senate in 2020 (\$250 on 9/29/2020). [CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26]

**Troy Monroe, The Executive Director / CEO / Superintendent Of Hartford-Based Jumoke Academy Charter School, Has Donated \$100 To Every McCrory Senate Cycle Since His First Senate Run.** McCrory committee filings list Troy Monroe (Jumoke Academy Charter School Inc.) as a \$100 itemized donor in 2017 ("Executive Director"), 2020 ("Executive Director"), 2022 ("Educator"), and 2024 ("CEO/Superintendent"). Cumulative: \$400 across four consecutive Senate cycles. [CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26]

**Patricia Sweet, A Registered Lobbyist For The Northeast Charter Schools Network, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2014 House Re-Election.** Mccrory 2014 received a \$100 itemized contribution from Patricia B. Sweet of Cromwell, CT, listing her employer as "northeast charter schools network" and her occupation as "lobbyist." The contribution is flagged Lobbyist=YES in eCRIS. [CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26]

## LOBBYIST CONTRIBUTIONS

**Across His Career, McCrory Has Accepted 170 Itemized Contributions Flagged As Lobbyist Money Totalling \$14,987.** eCRIS contributions to McCrory committees with Lobbyist=YES, by cycle: 2012 (12 contribs / \$920); 2014 (16 / \$1,405); 2017 (49 / \$4,375); 2020 (25 / \$1,892); 2022 (26 / \$2,500); 2024 (42 / \$3,895). Communicator lobbyists may make CEP qualifying contributions of up to \$100 to State Senate candidates only when the General Assembly is *not in session*, per [SEEC](#). [CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26]

LOBBYIST DONATIONS		
Industry Category	Contribs	Total \$
Carbon / utility / fossil fuel (in-house)	8	\$800
Charter school advocacy (in-house)	7	\$450
Health insurance — Anthem / IAC (in-house)	2	\$200
Telecom / cable — Comcast / AT&T / Altice (in-house)	5	\$405

LOBBYIST DONATIONS		
Industry Category	Contribs	Total \$
Contract lobbyist firms	133	\$12,037
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>\$14,987</b>

## CARBON, UTILITY & FOSSIL FUEL LOBBYIST DONORS

**Margaret Morton, A Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For Eversource Energy, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2017 Senate Campaign And Another \$100 To His 2024 Cycle.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Margaret L. Morton on 2/1/2017, listing employer "Eversource Energy" and occupation "Lobbyist." McCrory For Senate received a second \$100 from "Margarat" [sic] Morton on 1/17/2024, listing employer "Eversource" and occupation "Lobbyist." Both contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Eversource Energy Is The Largest Electric And Gas Utility In Connecticut And A Frequent Target Of Progressive Critique Over Rate Hikes And Regulatory Capture.** Eversource ratepayer revolts in CT have produced multiple legislative responses; the company is a recurring focus of [CT Mirror's](#) energy and environment coverage. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Daniel J. Moore, A Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For Eversource, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2017 First Senate Campaign On February 1, 2017.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Daniel J. Moore on 2/1/2017, listing employer "Eversource" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Thomas D. Dorsey, A Registered Eversource In-House Lobbyist Identifying As "Manager, Government Affairs," Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2017 First Senate Campaign On February 1, 2017.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Thomas D. Dorsey on 2/1/2017, listing employer "Eversource Energy" and occupation "Manager Government Affairs." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Kevin Hennessy, Listed In eCRIS As Director Of State Policy For Dominion, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2017 First Senate Campaign On February 1, 2017.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Kevin Hennessy on 2/1/2017, listing employer "Dominion" and occupation "Director of State Policy." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. Dominion Energy operated the Millstone Nuclear Power Station in Waterford, CT through 2019. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Hennessy Remains A Registered CT Communicator Lobbyist In The 2025–2026 Cycle, Now Listed As An In-House Lobbyist For Mainspring Energy.** Kevin Hennessy is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for "Mainspring," a stationary fuel-cell company. [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Frank Reynolds, Listed In eCRIS As An Executive At UIL, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2024 Senate Campaign On January 17, 2024.** McCrory For Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Frank Reynolds on 1/17/2024, listing employer "UIL" and occupation "Executive." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. UIL Holdings is the parent company of United Illuminating, Southern Connecticut Gas, and Connecticut Natural Gas, and is itself owned by AVANGRID, the U.S. subsidiary of Spanish utility Iberdrola. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Reynolds Is Currently Registered With The CT Office Of State Ethics As An In-House Communicator Lobbyist For AVANGRID UIL Holdings Corporation.** Franklyn Reynolds is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for AVANGRID UIL Holdings Corporation. [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Christian Herb, President And CEO Of The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association — The Heating Oil Industry Trade Group That Has Repeatedly Lobbied Against Connecticut Climate And Electrification Policy — Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2024 Senate Campaign On January 10, 2024.** McCrory For Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Christian Herb on 1/10/2024, listing employer "Connecticut Energy Marketers Association" and

occupation "President." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Herb Is A Currently Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association, According To The OSE 2025–2026 Communicator Lobbyist Dataset.** Christian Herb is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association. [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]
- **CEMA Has Publicly Lobbied Against Connecticut's Climate And Electrification Bills, Including S.B. 1145, Which Herb Said Would Create What He Called "Unprecedented New Taxes On Home Heating Oil, Natural Gas, Electricity, And Any Energy Source Made With Fossil Fuels."** CEMA's [public statements](#) frame opposition to CT decarbonization policy in fiscal-impact terms; Herb has been quoted in CT Public arguing that geopolitical events would raise heating oil prices. [[CEMA, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Nickey Kollie, A Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2024 Senate Campaign On January 10, 2024.** McCrory For Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Nickey Kollie on 1/10/2024, listing employer "CEMA" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Kollie Is Currently Registered With The CT Office Of State Ethics As An In-House Communicator Lobbyist For The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association.** Nickey Kollie is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association. [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

## CHARTER SCHOOL ADVOCACY LOBBYIST DONORS

**Patrick R. Riccards, Identified In eCRIS As An "Education Advocacy" Lobbyist For Conn CAN, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2012 House Re-Election On October 5, 2012.** Mccrory 2012 received a \$100 itemized contribution from Patrick R. Riccards on 10/5/2012, listing employer "Conn CAN" and occupation "Education Advocacy." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. ConnCAN — the Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now — is the state's primary charter school advocacy organization and at the time was led by Riccards as CEO. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Jessica Stram, Identified In eCRIS As Director Of Government Affairs For Conn CAN, Donated \$50 To McCrory's 2012 House Re-Election On October 9, 2012.** Mccrory 2012 received a \$50 itemized contribution from Jessica Stram on 10/9/2012, listing employer "Conn CAN" and occupation "Director of Government Affairs." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Subira Gordon, Identified In eCRIS As ConnCAN Executive Director (2020) And Then As Director At 50CAN (2022), Donated A Cumulative \$100 Across Two Cycles To McCrory.** McCrory for Senate received a \$50 itemized contribution from Subira Gordon on 8/14/2020 (employer "conncan," occupation "executive director") and another \$50 from Subira Gordon on 7/21/2022 (employer "50can," occupation "Director"). Both contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. 50CAN is ConnCAN's national parent advocacy network. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Patricia B. Sweet, Identified In eCRIS As A Lobbyist For The Northeast Charter Schools Network, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2014 House Re-Election On May 15, 2014.** Mccrory 2014 received a \$100 itemized contribution from Patricia B. Sweet on 5/15/2014, listing employer "northeast charter schools network" and occupation "lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. The Northeast Charter Schools Network is a multi-state charter advocacy and trade organization. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**William A. Phillips, Listed In eCRIS As An "Association Executive" At The Northeast Charter Schools Network, Donated \$50 To McCrory's 2014 House Re-Election On May 8, 2014.** Mccrory 2014 received a \$50 itemized contribution from William A. Phillips on 5/8/2014, listing employer "northeast charter schools network" and occupation "association executive." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Jamilah Prince-Stewart, Executive Director Of FaithActs For Education And A Currently Registered CT Communicator Lobbyist, Donated \$50 To McCrory's 2022 Senate Campaign On July 21, 2022.** McCrory for Senate received a \$50 itemized contribution from Jamilah Prince-Stewart on 7/21/2022, listing employer "Faith Acts For

Education" and occupation "Executive Director." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Prince-Stewart Is A Currently Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For FaithActs For Education, Per The OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators Dataset.** Jamilah Prince-Stewart is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for FaithActs for Education. [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

## HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY LOBBYIST DONORS

McCrary accepted **\$200 across 2 contributions** in 2024 from registered in-house lobbyists for the health insurance industry: \$100 from the President of the Insurance Association of Connecticut and \$100 from a registered Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield lobbyist.

**Eric George, President Of The Insurance Association Of Connecticut, Donated \$100 To McCrary's 2024 Senate Campaign On January 17, 2024.** McCrary For Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Eric George on 1/17/2024, listing employer "IAC" and occupation "President." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. The Insurance Association of Connecticut (IAC) is the state's primary trade association for property and casualty insurers. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **George Is A Currently Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For The Insurance Association Of Connecticut, Per The OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators Dataset.** Eric George is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for "Insurance Assoc. of CT." [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Christine Cappiello, Self-Identifying In eCRIS As A "Registered Lobbyist" For Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Donated \$100 To McCrary's 2024 Senate Campaign On January 18, 2024.** McCrary For Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Christine Cappiello on 1/18/2024, listing employer "Anthem BCBS" and occupation "Registered Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Cappiello Is A Currently Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For Elevance Health (Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Of Connecticut), Per The OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators Dataset.** Christine Cappiello is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for "Elevance Health and its Affiliates dba Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Connecticut." [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

## TELECOM & CABLE INDUSTRY LOBBYIST DONORS

**Robert "Rob" Earley, A Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For Comcast, Has Donated \$100 To McCrary In Each Of His Last Three Senate Cycles (2020, 2022, 2024).** McCrary for Senate / McCrary For Senate received \$100 itemized contributions from Rob Earley listing employer "Comcast" and occupation "Lobbyist" on 8/12/2020, 7/8/2022, and 1/17/2024. All three contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. Cumulative: \$300. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Earley Is A Currently Registered In-House Communicator Lobbyist For Comcast Cable Corp., Per The OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators Dataset.** Robert Earley is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for Comcast Cable Corp. [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Abigail A. Jewett, Identified In eCRIS As A Lobbyist For AT&T, Donated \$100 To McCrary's 2017 First Senate Campaign On February 1, 2017.** McCrary for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Abigail A. Jewett on 2/1/2017, listing employer "AT&T" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Jewett Has Since Moved To PMI US Corporate Services And Is Currently Registered With The OSE As A Communicator For PMI (Philip Morris International) And Affiliates — A Tobacco-Industry Affiliation Worth Flagging If She Re-Donates.** Abigail Jewett is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for "PMI US Corporate Services Inc. and Affiliates." PMI is the U.S. corporate services arm of Philip Morris International. [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Laura Jordan, Then A Senior Director Of Government Affairs At Altice USA, Donated \$5 To McCrory's 2017 First Senate Campaign On February 2, 2017.** McCrory for Senate received a \$5 itemized contribution from Laura Jordan on 2/2/2017, listing employer "Altice USA" and occupation "Senior Director, Gov Affairs." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

- **Jordan Has Since Moved To Stamford Health System And Is Currently Registered With The OSE As An In-House Lobbyist For That Health System.** Laura Jordan is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for Stamford Health System. [[CT OSE Lobbyist Communicators 2025–2026, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

## BEER & ALCOHOL DISTRIBUTORS

**Eric Filardi Of F&F Distributors Has Donated To McCrory In Five Different Cycles, Cumulatively Giving \$950.** Itemized contributions to McCrory for Senate / McCrory For Senate from Eric Filardi, employer listed variously as F&F Distributors / F +F Distributors / F and F Distributors, occupation Beer Distributor: 2017 (\$100), 2018 (\$250), 2020 (\$250), 2022 (\$100), 2024 (\$250). Total: \$950 across five cycles. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Roark Levine Of Levine Distributing Company Donated To McCrory In Three Consecutive Cycles, And His 2020 \$250 Contribution Was Flagged In eCRIS As From A State Executive Branch Contractor And A Legislative Branch Contractor.** McCrory for Senate received itemized contributions from Roark Levine / Roark A. Levine of Bloomfield, CT, employer Levine Distributing Company, occupation Beverage Distributor: 2017 (\$100), 2018 (\$250), 2020 (\$250). The 2020 contribution carries Contractor=YES, Contractor Executive Branch=YES, and Contractor Legislative Branch=YES flags in the eCRIS export. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Ross Hollander, An Executive At Hartford Distributors Inc. Donated \$100 To McCrory's First Senate Campaign In 2017, And That Contribution Was Also Flagged In eCRIS As From A State Executive Branch Contractor.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Ross H. Hollander of Bloomfield, CT on 9/8/2017, listing his employer as Hartford Distributors Inc. and occupation as Executive. The contribution carries Contractor=YES and Contractor Executive Branch=YES flags in the eCRIS export. Hollander also gave two \$5 contributions to McCrory For Senate in the 2024 cycle (not flagged Contractor). [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Anthony Gallo, CEO Of Star Distributors Inc., Donated \$250 To McCrory For Senate In Two Consecutive Cycles (2018 And 2020).** Mccrory For Senate / McCrory for Senate received \$250 itemized contributions from Anthony J. Gallo / Anthony Gallo, listing employer as Star Distributors Inc., occupation CEO, in the 2018 and 2020 cycles. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**John D. Hall, President Of Dichello Distributors Inc., Donated \$250 To McCrory For Senate In 2018.** McCrory for Senate received a \$250 itemized contribution from John D. Hall, employer Dichello Distributors Inc., occupation President, during the 2018 cycle. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Jude Malone, A Registered Communicator Lobbyist For The Connecticut Beer Wholesalers Association, Has Donated \$100 To Every McCrory Senate Cycle Since His First Senate Run — \$400 Cumulative Across Four Cycles.** McCrory for Senate / McCrory For Senate received \$100 itemized contributions from Jude A. Malone / Jude Malone, employer Connecticut Beer Wholesalers Association, in 2017, 2020, 2022, and 2024. The 2020, 2022, and 2024 contributions carry Lobbyist=YES flags in the eCRIS export. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

## LOBBYING FIRM CONTRIBUTORS

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOBBYISTS WHOSE FIRMS REPRESENT BAD ACTORS	
Bad Actor Category	Total Exposure
Pharma / opioid / drug pricing	\$3,655 / 36 contribs across 5 firms
Fossil fuel / utility / pipeline	\$2,500 / 25 contribs across 3 firms
Tobacco	\$500 / 5 contribs
Sports gambling	\$1,200 / 12 contribs across 2 firms
Wall Street / finance giants	\$2,955 / 31 contribs across 4 firms

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOBBYISTS WHOSE FIRMS REPRESENT BAD ACTORS	
Bad Actor Category	Total Exposure
Big retail / labor-issues	\$1,800 / 18 contribs across 2 firms

**NOTE:** Totals reflect cumulative dollars from communicator lobbyists at the named firms — not a claim that any specific donor personally lobbied for any specific client.

### **GAFFNEY, BENNETT & ASSOCIATES — \$1,300 / 13 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Connecticut's largest lobbying firm. [Gaffney Bennett's](#) publicly published 2023–24 client list includes Purdue Pharma (opioid manufacturer), Novartis, Eversource, AT&T, Bank of America, Wal-Mart, McDonald's, Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company, the CT Charter School Network, ConnCAN, DoorDash, 3M, Curaleaf, Service Corporation International (death-care monopolist), and WWE — among 70+ clients.

**Jay Malcynsky, Founding Partner Of Gaffney Bennett & Associates And Connecticut's Highest-Profile Contract Lobbyist, Has Donated \$400 To McCrory Across The 2017, 2020, 2022, And 2024 Cycles.** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Jay F. Malcynsky / Jay Malcynsky listing employer Gaffney Bennett & Associates on 2/1/2017, 8/12/2020, 7/18/2022, and 1/11/2024. All four carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Michael Doyle, A Communicator Lobbyist At Gaffney Bennett, Has Donated \$400 To McCrory Across The 2017, 2020, 2022, And 2024 Cycles.** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Michael C. Doyle / Michael Doyle listing employer Gaffney Bennett on 2/1/2017, 8/12/2020, 7/27/2022, and 1/17/2024. All four carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. Doyle is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for Gaffney, Bennett & Associates. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Stephen Kinney, A Communicator Lobbyist At Gaffney Bennett, Has Donated \$400 To McCrory Across Four Cycles (2014, 2020, 2022, 2024).** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Stephen Kinney / Kinney Stephen listing employer Gaffney Bennett on 5/15/2014, 8/11/2020, 7/11/2022, and 1/10/2024. The 2014 contribution is not flagged Lobbyist=YES; the 2017 "Kinney Stephen" contribution and the 2020/2022/2024 contributions are. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Richard Conway, A Communicator Lobbyist At Gaffney Bennett, Has Donated \$400 To McCrory Across Four Cycles (2017, 2020, 2022, 2024).** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Richard F. Conway Jr. / Richard Conway listing employer Gaffney Bennett on 2/1/2017, 8/11/2020, 7/13/2022, and 1/17/2024. All four carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Lisa Fecke, A Communicator Lobbyist At Gaffney Bennett, Donated \$100 To McCrory In 2020.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Lisa Fecke on 8/12/2020 listing employer "Gaffney Bennett" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Brendan Fox, Identified In eCRIS As An Attorney At The Law Office Of Jay F. Malcynsky (Affiliated With Gaffney Bennett's Founder), Has Donated \$200 To McCrory Across The 2017, 2020, And 2024 Cycles.** McCrory committees received itemized contributions of \$100 each from Brendan Fox / Brendan M. Fox, Jr. listing employer "Law Office / The Law Offices of Jay F. Malcynsky" on 2/1/2017, 8/12/2020, and 1/17/2024. The 2020 and 2024 contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS; the 2017 contribution does not (though the firm affiliation is the same). [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

### **SULLIVAN & LESHANE — \$500 / 5 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Sullivan & LeShane's [publicly published current client list](#) includes NRG Energy (fossil fuel power generator), the Plastics Industry Association, Lyft, Churchill Downs (gambling), Verizon, RELX (LexisNexis), Coca-Cola Northeast, the Global Kratom Coalition, GTI Grows (cannabis operator Green Thumb Industries), Gaggle (school-surveillance edtech), the International Bottled Water Association, the Connecticut Creditors Bar Association (debt collection trade group), Constitution Lending, and Target.

**Michael Johnson, A Communicator Lobbyist At Sullivan & LeShane, Has Donated \$200 To McCrory Across The 2022 And 2024 Cycles.** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Michael Johnson listing employer Sullivan & LeShane on 7/14/2022 (occupation "Consultant") and 1/14/2024 (occupation "Lobbyist"). The 2024 contribution

carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS; the 2022 contribution lists him under "Consultant" but is also flagged. Johnson is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for Sullivan & LeShane, Inc. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Patrick Sullivan, A Communicator Lobbyist And Partner At Sullivan & LeShane, Donated \$100 To McCrory In 2022.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Patrick Sullivan on 7/14/2022, listing employer "Sullivan & LeShane" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Patricia LeShane, A Communicator Lobbyist And Partner At Sullivan & LeShane, Donated \$100 To McCrory In 2022.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Patricia LeShane on 7/14/2022, listing employer "Sullivan & LeShane" and occupation "lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Ryan Bingham, A Communicator Lobbyist At Sullivan & LeShane And A Former Mayor Of Torrington, Donated \$100 To McCrory In 2024.** McCrory For Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Ryan Bingham on 1/17/2024, listing employer "Sullivan & LeShane" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. Bingham is listed in the CT OSE 2025–2026 Lobbyist Communicators dataset as an in-house communicator for Sullivan & LeShane, Inc. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

### **CAPITOL STRATEGIES GROUP — \$700 / 7 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Capitol Strategies Group's [publicly published current client list](#) includes DraftKings, FanDuel (sports gambling), Merck, Alexion Pharmaceuticals (rare-disease drugs), Citigroup, SIFMA (Wall Street trade group), Exelon, the Connecticut Energy Marketers Association (heating oil dealers), Global Partners LP (fossil fuel distribution), Earnin (payday-style cash advance app), Microsoft, Honda, Darden Restaurants, Deloitte, Dish, DirecTV, ETS, Bamboo Health, the Connecticut Bankers Association, the Connecticut Teamsters, and UConn-AAUP.

**Peter "PJ" Cimini, Founding Partner Of Capitol Strategies Group, Has Donated \$500 To McCrory Across Five Cycles (2012, 2014, 2017, 2022, 2024).** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Peter J. Cimini / Peter Cimini / PJ Cimini listing Capital/Capitol Strategies Group as employer on 10/9/2012, 5/15/2014, 2/1/2017, 7/15/2022, and 1/11/2024. The 2020 and later contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS; earlier filings are also flagged. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Patrick McCabe, Founding Partner Of Capitol Strategies Group, Has Donated \$200 To McCrory Across The 2017 And 2022 Cycles.** McCrory for Senate received \$100 itemized contributions from Patrick McCabe listing Cap Strategies / Capital Strategies Group as employer on 2/1/2017 and 7/14/2022. Both contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Maureen R. Flaherty, A Communicator Lobbyist At Capitol Strategies Group, Donated \$100 To McCrory's 2012 House Re-Election.** Mccrory 2012 received a \$100 itemized contribution from Maureen R. Flaherty on 10/9/2012 listing employer "Capitol Strategies Group" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

### **CAMILLIERE, CLOUD & KENNEDY (CC&K) — \$700 / 7 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Camilliere, Cloud & Kennedy's [publicly published current client list](#) includes Viatrix Pharmaceuticals (the post-merger Mylan/Upjohn entity, a generic and brand-name pharma giant), Mylan, Copart (auto auctions), Motorola Solutions, LAZ Parking, MMWEC (a Massachusetts municipal electric wholesaler), the UFC, Charter Oak Healthcare, HealthTech Solutions, Bristol Hospital, Wheeler (mental health network), Ski Sundown, Mohawk Mountain, and Northeast Equipment Dealers Association. The firm publicly notes it has "successfully represented clients in . . . tobacco" among other industries.

**Christopher "Chris" Cloud, Founding Partner Of Camilliere, Cloud & Kennedy And A Veteran Hartford Lobbyist, Has Donated \$500 To McCrory Across Five Cycles (2012, 2014, 2017, 2020, 2022, 2024).** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Christopher R. Cloud / Chris Cloud / Christopher Cloud listing CC&K / Camilliere Cloud and Kennedy / CCK as employer on 10/5/2012, 5/15/2014, 2/2/2017, 8/11/2020, 7/11/2022, and 1/16/2024. The 2020 and later contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS; earlier filings also reflect Lobbyist=YES. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Anthony "Tony" Camilliere, Founding Partner Of CC&K, Has Donated \$200 To McCrory Across The 2014 And 2022 Cycles.** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Tony Camilliere / Anthony D. Camilliere listing CC&K / CCK as employer on 5/16/2014 and 7/11/2022. Both contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

#### **FOCUS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS — \$500 / 5 CONTRIBUTIONS**

FOCUS Government Affairs' [publicly published current client list](#) includes **Reynolds American (the tobacco company behind Camel and Newport cigarettes)**, **AIG**, the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA — the brand-name OTC pharma trade group), **Flock Safety (license-plate-reader mass-surveillance vendor)**, **Encompass Health**, **Fortinet**, **Colonial Life**, **Corebridge Financial**, the **Knights of Columbus**, the **Connecticut Association of Realtors**, the **CT Police and Fire Union**, the **CT State Firefighters Association**, **FreedomCare**, **GREY2K USA**, and **AACTE**.

**William Malitsky, Founding Partner And Principal At FOCUS Government Affairs, Has Donated \$400 To McCrory Across Four Cycles (2017, 2020, 2022, 2024).** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Malitsky William / William Malitsky listing employer Halloran & Sage Gov Affairs (2017) and FOCUS Gov Affairs / Focus Government Affairs (2020, 2022, 2024) on 2/1/2017, 8/18/2020, 7/29/2022, and 1/11/2024. All four contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Michael Bzdyra, A Communicator Lobbyist At FOCUS Government Affairs And A Former Connecticut DMV Commissioner, Has Donated \$200 To McCrory Across The 2022 And 2024 Cycles.** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Michael Bzdyra on 7/29/2022 (employer left blank) and 1/11/2024 (employer "FOCUS Government Affairs"). Both contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**James Paolino, A Communicator Lobbyist And Principal At FOCUS Government Affairs, Donated \$100 To McCrory In 2017.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from James Paolino on 2/1/2017, listing employer "Halloran and Sage Gov Affairs" (FOCUS's predecessor) and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

#### **CAPITOL CONSULTING LLC — \$455 / 6 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Capitol Consulting LLC is the firm founded in 2010 by Mike Dugan. Per [Capitol Consulting's published profile](#), the firm's lobbyist Anita Schepker brings to it a client roster including **Abbott Laboratories**, **Bristol-Myers Squibb**, **Eli Lilly**, **Horizon Pharma**, **PhRMA (the brand-name pharmaceutical industry's principal trade association)**, **AFLAC**, **DaVita (dialysis monopolist)**, **Connecticut Psychological Association**, and **Safelite Auto Glass**; firm founder Mike Dugan has historically represented Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Visa, eBay, Diebold Election Systems, the Connecticut Society of CPAs, the CT Outdoor Advertisers, emergency physicians, funeral directors, and the Epilepsy Foundation of CT.

**Michael Dugan, Founder Of Capitol Consulting LLC, Has Donated \$200 To McCrory Across The 2017 And 2024 Cycles.** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Michael S. Dugan / Michael Dugan listing employer Capitol Consulting LLC on 2/1/2017 and 1/17/2024. Both contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Josh Hughes, Senior Vice President And Attorney At Capitol Consulting LLC, Has Donated \$200 To McCrory Across The 2020 And 2024 Cycles.** McCrory committees received \$100 itemized contributions from Josh Hughes listing employer Capitol Consulting on 8/14/2020 and 1/17/2024. Both contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Anita Schepker, A Lobbyist Whose Pharma Client Book Includes PhRMA, Abbott Labs, BMS, Eli Lilly, And Horizon Pharma, Donated \$100 To McCrory In 2017 Under Her Solo Firm Name.** McCrory for Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Anita Schepker on 2/5/2017, listing employer "Schepker & Associates, LLC" and occupation "Attorney/Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. Per Capitol Consulting's own biographical materials, Schepker's pharma client list rolls into Capitol Consulting. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

#### **REYNOLDS STRATEGY GROUP — \$325 / 4 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Per [Kevin Reynolds's own published biography](#) and public reporting, his recent client list at Reynolds Strategy Group has included **Amazon**, **CVS/Caremark (pharmacy benefit manager)**, **Diageo (the global liquor giant behind Smirnoff, Guinness, Johnnie Walker, and Captain Morgan)**, **Goodwin College**, **Northeast Utilities (now Eversource)**, **Quest**

**Diagnostic Clinical Laboratories, Red Bull, Saint Francis Hospital And Medical Center (a Trinity Health Catholic hospital), and Live Nation/Ticketmaster.** Brenda Sisco, a principal at the firm, is a former Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management under Gov. Jodi Rell.

**Kevin Reynolds, Founder Of Reynolds Strategy Group, Donated \$100 To McCrory In 2024.** McCrory For Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Kevin Reynolds on 1/20/2024, listing employer "RSG" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Hillary Glass, A Communicator Lobbyist At Reynolds Strategy Group, Has Donated \$125 To McCrory Across The 2020 And 2024 Cycles.** McCrory committees received itemized contributions from Hillary Glass listing employer Reynolds Strategy / RSG on 8/19/2020 (\$25) and 1/16/2024 (\$100). Both contributions carry the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

**Brenda Sisco, A Principal At Reynolds Strategy Group And A Former CT OPM Secretary, Donated \$100 To McCrory In 2024.** McCrory For Senate received a \$100 itemized contribution from Brenda Sisco on 1/16/2024, listing employer "RSG (Reynolds Strategy Group)" and occupation "Lobbyist." The contribution carries the Lobbyist=YES designation in eCRIS. [[CT SEEC eCRIS, accessed 5/9/26](#)]

## 2026 PRIMARY

**In December 2025, McCrory Had Not Filed Reelection Documents With The State Elections Enforcement Commission, Telling Hearst CT "I Will Be Making My Decision Very Soon." State Rep. Maryam Khan, D-Windsor - A Teacher And Co-Chair Of The Select Committee On Special Education - Filed Exploratory Documents To Run Against Him. Ayana Taylor Continued Her Challenge.** "Ayana Taylor, a Democrat from Windsor, has started a potential challenge to Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, who was first elected to the General Assembly in 2015 and is the co-chair of the Education Committee. Another lawmaker, second-term state Rep. Maryam Khan, D-Windsor, has filed exploratory documents that list a potential Aug. 11 primary in her district, which also includes McCrory's district. McCrory, who has been linked to state spending that is under question by federal investigators, has not filed reelection documents with the State Elections Enforcement Commission. 'I will be making my decision very soon,' he said in a brief phone interview recently. Kahn is a teacher who serves on three legislative committees and is co-chair of the Select Committee on Special Education. 'I think in the last three years as state rep, I am proud of the trust I've built in my district and the trust I've earned in the Capitol,' Kahn said in a Monday afternoon phone interview. 'It's important to have someone in the 2nd District seat free of any distractions.[...]' Taylor, president of the Windsor school board, said Monday afternoon that after losing to McCrory in a 2024 primary, she has made a point of meeting people throughout the 2nd Senate District, which also includes Bloomfield and Hartford. 'I stand by why I'm doing it again,' said Taylor, who is employed in the human resources department of a utility. 'I'm laser-focused on issues such as strong public schools and the equity of financing our public schools.'" [Connecticut Post, 12/24/25]

**On January 21, 2026, 2024 Primary Challenger Ayana Taylor Confirmed She Had Filed To Run Against McCrory Again In 2026, Saying "There's A Dark Cloud Over The District, And People Don't Need That. It's A Distraction From The Issues." State Rep. Maryam Khan, D-Windsor, Filed An Exploratory Committee.** "Ayana Taylor, a Democrat who challenged McCrory in a 2024 primary and has filed to run against him again this year, said the audit and the ongoing FBI investigation make it difficult for him to properly serve the voters and residents in the state's 2nd Senate District. And she said she agreed with Lamont that McCrory needs to step back. 'I chose to run, you know, because I no longer trust the leadership serving in the 2nd district right now, and a lot of people feel the same,' she said. Taylor said people shouldn't turn a blind eye to allegations of corruption. 'There's a dark cloud over the district, and people don't need that,' she said. 'It's a distraction from the issues, and when you have all those things going on, how could you properly lead?' 'Regardless of whatever decision Sen. McCrory makes for himself, the voters will have the final say this,' she added. Rep. Maryam Khan, D-Windsor, has filed an exploratory committee to run for[...]" [Connecticut Mirror, 1/21/26]

## 2024 PRIMARY

**August 2024: McCrory Won His First Senate Primary With 58.77 Percent Of The Vote, Defeating Ayana Taylor (32.59%) And Shellye Davis (8.64%). McCrory Dominated In Hartford And Bloomfield While Taylor Topped Him By About 300 Votes In Windsor.** "State Sen. Douglas McCrory cruised to victory Tuesday in the 2nd District Democratic primary, smashing two opponents to move closer to re-election in a district covering parts of Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor, according to unofficial results. [...] McCrory, the party's endorsed candidate, walked into a cheering crowd of supporters at the West Indian Social Club in Hartford after 9 p.m. His challengers were Ayana Taylor, vice president of the Windsor Board of Education, and Shellye Davis, secretary-treasurer of the Connecticut AFL-CIO and president of the

Hartford Federation of Paraeducators. Unofficial vote totals posted on a screen at the club showed McCrory with 58.77 percent of the vote, Taylor with 32.59 percent and Davis with 8.64 percent. McCrory dominated in Hartford and Bloomfield, while Taylor topped him by about 300 votes in Windsor, according to unofficial results. McCrory thanked supporters, told them he loved them and vowed to keep working for district residents. 'They came for your boy! The way my community responded...', he said to cheers. The results showed voters want him to be an even bigger advocate at the Capitol, McCrory said. 'We're going to keep building. We're going to keep growing,' he said." [News-Times (Danbury), 8/13/24]

**In May 2024, McCrory Won The Democratic Convention Endorsement With 53 Of 76 Delegates On The Second Round Of Voting (Taylor Took 23). Both Taylor And Shellye Davis Qualified For The August 13 Primary - Davis By Winning Bloomfield's Delegates In The First Round.** "Incumbent Sen. Douglas McCrory will face against two challengers in an Aug. 13 Democratic primary for his Senate seat despite securing the party's endorsement. McCrory represents District 2, which spans parts of Hartford, Windsor, and Bloomfield. He received 53 of the 76 delegates in the second round of voting at the Democratic convention, earning him the endorsement. Windsor's Ayana Taylor received the remaining 23. 'I've been serving that community for seven years, and I look forward to continuing to serve them,' McCrory said. 'And as far as the campaigns go, I'm gonna get out there and knock on doors like I've always done in every campaign I've had.' In the first round of voting at the convention, which determined who would appear on the primary ballot, McCrory received the Hartford delegates, Taylor won the Windsor delegates, and paraeducator and teacher's union leader Shellye Davis won Bloomfield's. This divides the electorate looking to vote for a candidate other than the incumbent, Taylor's supporters insist. 'Their interest, of course, in doing that is to help the incumbent by trying to split the anti-McCrory vote,' said Al Simon, Taylor's campaign manager. 'So it's a well-known tactic to try to do that to qualify additional candidates to split the opposition.'" [Journal Inquirer, 5/18/24]

**In December 2023, Windsor School Board Member Ayana Taylor Announced A Democratic Primary Challenge To McCrory For The 2nd Senate District Seat, Saying "I Feel The Seat Deserves Me And I Deserve The Seat" And "It Is Time." Windsor Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke Said "It Is Time For A Woman To Sit In That Seat."** "Standing at the Woodland Street entrance to Keney Park in Hartford's North End Friday, Ayana Taylor announced her candidacy for the 2nd District state Senate seat held by Douglas McCrory. Repeating a recurring theme of 'it is time' Taylor, a North End native who said she grew up dancing at the Artists Collective down the street and attending a nearby church where she is still a parishioner, spoke with about two dozen supporters. 'I want to dive deep on a broader level,' said Taylor, who is in her third term as a member of the Windsor Board of Education. 'I feel the seat deserves me and I deserve the seat.' The district includes Bloomfield, the North End of Hartford and part of Windsor. McCrory, an administrator with the Capitol Region Educational Council and an educator for more than three decades, was elected to the seat in a special election in 2017. Prior to that, McCrory, who lives in Hartford's Blue Hills neighborhood, served six terms as a state representative from the 7th Assembly District. McCrory, a Democrat, serves as deputy Senate president pro tempore and is chairman of the Education Committee. He did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Taylor, also a Democrat, who works in human resources for a large insurance firm and is also a licensed Realtor, said she 'brings value to the space.' 'I know that there is more to be done,' she said. 'It is time.' Windsor Mayor Nuchette Black-Burke also reiterated the 'it is time' theme and encouraged Taylor's supporters to give their time and money to the cause and tell others about her candidacy for the seat. 'I want you to tell people about this amazing woman. It is time for a woman to sit in that seat,' Black-Burke said." [Journal Inquirer, 12/19/23]

**In January 2024, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Shellye Davis - President Of An AFT Local Representing Hartford Paraprofessionals - Announced A Democratic Primary Challenge To McCrory Said: "I'm About Holding People Accountable... People Are Upset With Me, Because I Am Doing My Job. I Am Getting Attacked For Doing My Job."** "The Senate Democratic majority's close ties to the Connecticut AFL-CIO on issues ranging from jobless benefits for strikers to universal paid sick days is about to be tested by an AFL-CIO leader's effort to unseat a Democratic senator. The target is Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, a school administrator and former public school teacher whose fiery support for charter schools last year has put him at odds with teacher unions. Shellye Davis, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO and president of an AFT local that represents paraprofessional educators in Hartford, opened a campaign last week against McCrory, who is unaccustomed to competition. McCrory was unopposed in 2018, 2020 and 2022 after winning his Senate seat in a special election in 2017, but he already has two challengers for the Democratic nomination in 2024: Davis and Ayana Taylor, both of Windsor. [...] McCrory, the co-chair of the General Assembly's Education Committee, describes himself as a supporter of 'school choice,' including charter schools, calling them a welcome option for parents of students in struggling schools. 'I'm about holding people accountable, and I'm about change and doing what's best for those who can't do for themselves,' McCrory said in a recent interview. 'People are upset with me, because I am doing my job. I am getting attacked for doing my job.'" [Connecticut Mirror, 1/30/24]

## CAMPAIGN FINANCE

**In January 2024, Senate President Pro Tem Looney And Majority Leader Duff Hosted A Fundraiser For McCrory; Duff Said "It Is A Bedrock Principle That We Protect Our Incumbents."** "In response to Taylor's quick fundraising, the Senate's top Democratic leaders, Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney of New Haven and Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff of Norwalk, hosted a fundraiser for McCrory earlier this month. 'It is a bedrock principle that we protect our incumbents,' Duff said. But not to the degree that they discourage challengers. 'Clearly, we would prefer there not being a primary, but it's not our position to tell people not to run,' Looney said." [CT Mirror, [1/30/24](#)]

## **2017 STATE SENATE SPECIAL ELECTION**

**In January 2017, McCrory - Then 50 And In His Seventh Term In The State House - Announced He Would Run For The 2nd Senate District Seat Vacated By Eric Coleman, Saying "I Have The Institutional Knowledge, Desire And Patience."** "A special election for the Democratic stronghold 2nd Senate District seat will be held Feb. 28. The seat, which includes parts of Bloomfield, Hartford and Windsor, became available last week when longtime incumbent Democrat Eric Coleman resigned from the legislature to pursue a judgeship. A current and a former elected Democratic official are among those who have expressed interest in running for the seat, including former Bloomfield Mayor and state Treasurer Joseph Suggs and Rep. Douglas McCrory of Hartford. McCrory, 50 and in his seventh term in the General Assembly, said this week that he is ready to take on the next political challenge. 'I have the institutional knowledge, desire and patience,' McCrory said. Suggs, 76, said Friday that he would be the best choice because he has served all of the communities in the 2nd District as the state treasurer, and as a retiree he could devote his full attention to issues. 'I'll be one of the few state senators who will take the position on a full-time basis,' Suggs said." [Hartford Courant, 1/14/17]

**On January 19, 2017, McCrory Won The Democratic Convention 38-33 Over Former Bloomfield Mayor And State Treasurer Joseph Suggs To Become The Democratic Nominee In The 2nd Senate District Special Election. McCrory Carried Hartford 31-3, While Suggs Carried Bloomfield 12-5 And Won Windsor 18-2.** "State Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, and former Windsor Republican Town Councilman Michael McDonald will face off in a special election to fill the 2nd Senate seat vacated by Eric Coleman earlier this month. At party conventions Thursday the two were chosen by delegates from Hartford, Windsor and Bloomfield. McCrory and former Bloomfield Mayor and state treasurer Joseph Suggs were vying for the endorsement for the seat, which had been held by Coleman for more than two decades. Bloomfield Democratic Town Committee Chairman David Baram said McCrory received 38 delegates to Suggs' 33. According to Baram, McCrory took Hartford 31-3, while Suggs carried Windsor 18-2 and Bloomfield 12-5. 'Everyone pledged their support to McCrory [after the outcome was determined],' Baram said Thursday. 'I think he'll be an excellent state senator who will support the district well.' [...] 'I think I'll make a good state senator because of the experience I have gained over the past 12 years representing the 7th district and my ability to work with other state representatives and state senators,' McCrory said Friday." [Hartford Courant, 1/21/17]

**Heading Into The February 2017 Special Election, McCrory Said It Would Be A "Natural Progression" To Take Over Eric Coleman's Senate Seat, Calling Coleman A Mentor: "I Studied Under Sen. Coleman; He's Been A Mentor For Me For The Last 12 Years."** "Voters in Hartford, Windsor and Bloomfield will decide who the next state senator from the second district is at a special election scheduled for Tuesday. Three candidates are vying to fill the seat left vacant by Eric Coleman, who resigned in January to pursue a judgeship. They are: six-term Democratic Rep. Doug McCrory, 7th District Hartford; Republican Michael McDonald, a former Windsor town council member; and Aaron Romano, a Bloomfield attorney who is running unaffiliated as a write-in candidate. [...] McCrory, the favorite in the historically Democratic district, said it would be a 'natural progression' for him to take over Coleman's seat. 'I represent part of the district already. I want to expand the opportunity, to represent the remaining portion of the district, which includes Bloomfield and Windsor,' he said. 'I have the experience, I have the knowledge of the position, and I have great relationships in both chambers that make me a good candidate for the position.' McCrory said he's kept a close eye on Coleman - calling him his mentor - during his time as a lawmaker. 'I studied under Sen. Coleman; he's been a mentor for me for the last 12 years that I've been there,' he said. 'I've watched how he operated.'" [Hartford Courant, 2/23/17]

**Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney Wrote A February 2017 Letter To The Hartford Courant Endorsing McCrory For The 2nd Senate District And Warning Against Republicans Advancing A "Brand Of Trumpism In Connecticut."** "Residents Need McCrory In State Senate[:] I am writing to urge the residents of Bloomfield, Windsor and Hartford to protect their quality of life, and to protect the future of their children, by voting for Democrat Doug McCrory for state Senate during the special election Tuesday. Doug McCrory is an experienced Democratic state legislator who is a vice principal and who has been an educator for 20 years. He was a basketball player at the University of Hartford and earned his master's degree from Sacred Heart University. Doug, his wife and their children live in Blue Hills. In short, Doug McCrory is a success story who represents the best of Connecticut and who has spent his life working to improve the lives of children and middle-class families. That Connecticut success story is now under attack. Republicans hope to

take over the Senate and ram their pro-gun, anti-woman, anti-working class, anti-health care agenda through the legislature, hurting thousands of Windsor, Bloomfield and Hartford residents. This cannot be allowed to happen. Your quality of life, and the opportunities your children have to learn and grow, could be overturned by Republicans determined to advance their own brand of Trumpism in Connecticut. I need, and Connecticut needs, Doug's experience and thoughtfulness in the state Senate. Martin M. Looney, New Haven[.] The writer, a Democrat, is state Senate president pro tem." [Hartford Courant, 2/24/17]

**On February 28, 2017, McCrory Won The Special Election For The 2nd Senate District 72-25 Against Republican Michael McDonald, Replacing Eric Coleman Who Stepped Down To Pursue A Judicial Appointment.** "Doug McCrory was elected to the 2nd Senate District with 75 percent of the popular vote, replacing former Democratic state Senator Eric Coleman of Bloomfield, who stepped down to be considered for a judicial appointment. The special election took place on February 28, 2017. State Rep. Douglas McCrory (D) defeated Michael McDonald (R) in the special election. McCrory was elected to Coleman's seat by a 72–25 margin." [Ballotpedia, [2/28/17](#)]

**On February 28, 2017, McCrory Won The 2nd Senate District Special Election With 75 Percent Of The Vote, Defeating Republican Michael McDonald And Two Write-In Candidates. McCrory Said: "I'm Ecstatic That I Was Able To Win This Race With 75 Percent Of The Vote. That's A Mandate."** "The delicate balance of political power in the Senate will hold following two special elections on Tuesday that preserve the status quo. Turnout hovered around 18 percent - according to unofficial and incomplete results - in the two districts where voters chose a new senator: the Democratically dominated 2nd District, which includes parts of Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor, and the 32nd District, a Republican stronghold that includes several towns surrounding Waterbury. The Senate was divided 18 to 18 before two senators - Democrat Eric Coleman and Republican Rob Kane - announced this year that they were stepping down. Tuesday's results ensure the split continues. Democratic Rep. Douglas McCrory handily turned back Republican Michael W. McDonald and two write-in candidates, Aaron Romano and Charles Jackson, to win in the 2nd District. The seat had been held by Coleman, who is leaving the chamber to pursue a judgeship. 'I'm ecstatic that I was able to win this race with 75 percent of the vote,' McCrory said. 'That's a mandate.' McDonald conceded about a half hour after the polls closed. He said he was proud of the race, despite the results. 'The numbers are what they are,' he said. 'Hartford's tough, it looks like I took a pretty good beating. I guess my message didn't work there.[']" [Hartford Courant, 3/01/17]

## 2006 CAMPAIGN FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**In October 2006, The Hartford Courant Editorial Board Endorsed McCrory's Republican Opponent Walter Butler Over Him, Calling Butler "The Better Candidate" And Saying It Had Been A "Disappointing First Term For Mr. McCrory."** "Democrat Douglas McCrory is seeking a second term as state representative from Hartford's 7th House District seat. Mr. McCrory is charismatic and has strong ties to the city's African-American community, but his Republican opponent, Walter R. Butler, seems the better candidate. Mr. Butler, 77, an attorney from the city's Asylum Hill neighborhood, has lived in Hartford for more than 25 years. The House seat would be his first elective office, but Mr. Butler has served the city in many civic capacities. He has a good grasp of issues and clear ideas for addressing them. The district includes portions of Hartford's Blue Hills, Northeast, Upper Albany, Asylum Hill and West End neighborhoods. Mr. Butler says that while state funding levels for education are up, they're down in relation to overall state revenues. He's right that the state should fund districts' special-education costs more than it does currently. He also says the state is losing teachers and should make recruiting them from other states easier. Mr. McCrory agrees on the need to smooth recruiting. He also says the state needs to find ways to bridge the achievement gap between white and minority students. But then he notes Hartford already gets a lot of funding and there's a need for accountability. Mr. Butler also seems to understand the need for property-tax reform and its importance to homeowners whose property values are rising, but who can't afford their taxes. He also favors a good idea championed by Mayor Eddie Perez during the last legislative session to let larger cities tax vacant lots at higher rates than developed lots. The ``split-tax" plan failed in the General Assembly, but has been used in other states to encourage development. Mr. McCrory knew little about it. It has been a disappointing first term for Mr. McCrory, who is 30 and an assistant principal at Mark Twain elementary school." [Hartford Courant, 10/25/06]

**Heading Into His 2006 Re-Election, McCrory Touted His First-Term Work On Drug Law Reform, Raising The Minimum Wage, More Education Money For Hartford, Campaign Finance Reform, And A Phase-In Of Hartford's Property Tax Revaluation, Saying He Earned A Reputation As A "Quick Start."** "McCrory, 40, is married with two children and was previously a vice principal at Weaver High School before taking the same job at Mark Twain elementary school -- a move he said allows him to affect young lives before they have a chance to stray. ``We are losing too many kids through the system, a lot of them even before they get to high school," he said. McCrory said he had an ``outstanding" first term, delivering on promises to the city for more education dollars, campaign finance reform, and money to continue renovations at the Community Health Services building on Albany Avenue. He cited his work in favor of

bills that reformed drug laws and raised the minimum wage, and said he earned a reputation in the legislature as someone who was a "quick start." McCrory said one of his biggest successes, though, was his work with the city's delegation on phasing in the property tax revaluation -- one that had the potential to inflict great pain on residential property owners. "That was a big fight, and we won it," he said. If re-elected, McCrory said, he hopes to get a seat on the legislature's education committee." [Hartford Courant, 11/03/06]

**When Asked In November 2006 If He Was Part Of The Political Establishment, McCrory Laughed And Said: "Hell No. I Am Not Part Of The Establishment By A Long Shot."** "While Butler says some Republican representation is better than none, McCrory says no Republican representation is the ticket to a veto-proof majority in the House. Asked if he was part of the political establishment, McCrory laughed. "Hell no," he said. "I am not part of the establishment by a long shot." [Hartford Courant, 11/03/06]

**McCrory Declared Victory For A Second Term In November 2006 And Said He Backed Universal Health Care, Increased Funding For Magnet And Charter Schools, Allowing Connecticut To Hire Certified Teachers From Neighboring States Without Re-Testing, And Tax Incentives For Companies That Provided Paid Internships To State Residents.** "Democrat Douglas McCrory declared victory early Tuesday evening for a second term representing Hartford's 7th House District after viewing initial returns that showed a significant lead. His Republican opponent, Walter Butler, 77, was waiting for official numbers before he would comment on the race. He acknowledged his chances were slim, but said if the results showed promise he might plan a run in two years. [...] "The voters want someone who understands the issues facing the district," said McCrory, 40, who is assistant principal at Mark Twain Elementary School in Hartford. Closing the achievement gap between poor city children and their more privileged suburban peers tops his list of priorities. To improve education, McCrory supports increased funding for magnet and charter schools and for preschool to create more slots for city children. To help increase the pool of qualified teachers, he said he will seek a change in the law to allow Connecticut schools to hire certified teachers from neighboring states without requiring them to pass tests for Connecticut certification. In the field of health care, he said, "I think there should be universal health care for all the citizens of the state." Finally, he said, the legislature should focus on ways to keep more college graduates in the state. One way to do that, he said, would be to offer tax incentives to companies that give paid internships to state residents." [Hartford Courant, 11/08/06]

## 2004 CAMPAIGN FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### GENERAL ELECTION

**In October 2004, The Hartford Courant Editorial Board Endorsed McCrory For The 7th Assembly District In The General Election, Calling Him "Energetic" With "A Strong Record Of Community Involvement."** "Democrat Douglas McCrory defeated state Rep. Annette Wheeler Carter in the August primary to win the party's nomination in the 7th Assembly District in Hartford and is the best candidate in the general election Nov. 2 [...] Mr. McCrory, 38, an assistant principal at Weaver High School, is energetic and boasts a strong record of community involvement. He offered voters an appealing choice in a district that had let Ms. Carter return to her seat with only one challenge in the last seven elections. Unfortunately, Mr. McCrory's Republican opponent seems to exist in name only. Jacqueline Dickens, who for many years ran for local offices as a Democrat, has failed to respond to several attempts to reach her. Her apparent lack of interest in sharing her views saps the vitality from this legislative race. Still, voters of the district, which is centered in Blue Hills and includes part of Albany Avenue, have a good choice in Mr. McCrory. He grew up in the neighborhood, graduated from the University of Hartford and earned master's degrees in business and education administration. He also taught in the Rawson Elementary and Fox Middle schools. Mr. McCrory shows an understanding of legislative issues. He favors efforts to cut prison costs by increasing programs aimed at keeping juveniles out of the criminal justice system. This fits his proposal to develop a five-year plan that deals with education, economic development and engaging young people. By defeating Ms. Carter in the primary, Mr. McCrory took on another challenge -- helping to raise the profile of Hartford legislators. Ms. Carter served 16 years and, other than bringing state appropriations to her district, failed to become an influential or highly ranked legislator. During the primary campaign, Mr. McCrory accused Ms. Carter of being a backbencher, a label he should work to avoid." [Hartford Courant, 10/08/04]

**At An October 2004 Blue Hills Candidates Forum, McCrory Said "The Best Social Program There Is, Is A Job" And Cited His Experience As Weaver Vice Principal Working With Youth Concerned About Jobs And The Juvenile Justice System.** "McCrory said he agreed with the issues raised by Coleman and Green, and added that job creation is important to him. 'The best social program there is, is a job,' he said. 'Don't let anyone fool you that our young people don't want jobs.' As a vice principal at Weaver High School, McCrory said he is in constant contact with youths concerned about finding work, and also those who have to deal with the juvenile justice system. He also said he'd worked on improving education in Hartford." [Hartford Courant, 10/27/04]

**McCrary's Republican Opponent In 2004 - Jacqueline Dickens - Withdrew From The Race Less Than A Week Before Election Day, Saying She "Never Meant To Run," Leaving McCrary Effectively Uncontested In His First General Election.** "That was when Douglas McCrary, a vice principal at Weaver High School in Hartford, beat incumbent Annette Carter for her 7th District seat, which includes Blue Hills. McCrary had a Republican challenger in Tuesday's general election for a while. But that challenger, Jacqueline Dickens, was little more than a rumor and a name on the ballot. She withdrew this week, saying she never meant to run. Now McCrary is officially uncontested, as is state Rep. Kenneth Green, the Democrat representing the 1st District." [Hartford Courant, 10/30/04]

## PRIMARY

**In July 2004, The Hartford Courant Editorial Board Endorsed McCrary In The 7th House District Democratic Primary, Saying He Offered "Energy, Community Experience And Opportunity For New Leadership" Against 16-Year Incumbent Annette Wheeler Carter.** "Democrat Douglas McCrary, who is challenging Annette Wheeler Carter for the party's nomination in the state's 7th House District primary Aug. 10, makes a telling observation about his opponent: She has served 16 years without becoming an influential or highly ranked legislator. Mr. McCrary, 38, an assistant principal at Weaver High School, offers the energy, community experience and opportunity for new leadership that recommends him for the Democratic nomination. Ms. Carter, 63, the endorsed candidate, has succeeded in bringing home state appropriations, but otherwise her record is undistinguished. Since winning a special election in January 1988 and a regular election in November 1988, she has faced only one challenger in seven subsequent general elections. Such an easy route to office may have fostered complacency. After growing up in the district, which is centered in the Blue Hills neighborhood and includes part of Albany Avenue, Mr. McCrary graduated from the University of Hartford and earned master's degrees in business and education administration. He taught in Rawson Elementary and Fox Middle schools." [Hartford Courant, 7/29/04]

**In His 2004 Primary Campaign, McCrary Advocated A "Five-Year Plan" On Education, Economic Development And Engaging Young People, And Wanted To "Increase Programs Aimed At Keeping Juveniles Out Of The Criminal Justice System."** "He advocates creating a five-year plan dealing with education, economic development and engaging young people. This would help focus his legislative work should he be elected in November. The Republicans chose Jacqueline Dickens to run for the 7th District seat. Ms. Carter and Mr. McCrary have similar positions on many issues. Ms. Carter backs the bolstering of mental health services for convicts who need it. Mr. McCrary would increase programs aimed at keeping juveniles out of the criminal justice system. The voters' choice is between a longtime legislator with a lackluster record and an eager challenger who has the tools and leadership potential to serve the district well." [Hartford Courant, 7/29/04]

**In Pre-Primary Coverage, McCrary Charged That 16-Year Incumbent Annette Carter Was "A Back-Bencher Who Has Gone Through Several Legislative Sessions Without Introducing A Single Bill," And Slammed Her For Introducing A 2003 Bill To Increase Legislator Retirement Benefits.** "7th House District: State Rep. Annette Carter vs. Douglas McCrary[.] Douglas McCrary, an energetic vice principal at Weaver High School in Hartford, says his candidacy is based on his belief that Rep. Annette Carter's performance has been lackluster -- a function of her longtime tenure in the House and too few challenges to her seat. Carter has served since winning a special election in 1988 and has won eight straight elections since then. McCrary charges that Carter is a back-bencher who has gone through several legislative sessions without introducing a single bill. In the 2003 session, Carter introduced a bill to increase the retirement benefits for legislators, prompting McCrary to say that she was busier planning her retirement than working for the district. Carter's response: 'That bill never passed.' Carter says that if she wins this will be her last term. McCrary responded that she made that promise several years before -- an accusation that caused Carter to gasp openly and to lash out during a debate last week. 'If lying will get you this position, I guess Mr. McCrary will get the position,' Carter yelled before an audience of 40 and the public access cameras. Carter says McCrary would be unable to properly perform his legislative duties while holding such a demanding job as vice principal of an urban high school. 'He thinks he can do both jobs,' Carter said. 'He can't do his day job. He's a vice principal with administrative duties.'" [Hartford Courant, 8/08/04]

**In August 2004, McCrary Defeated Eight-Term Incumbent State Rep. Annette W. Carter In The 7th House District Democratic Primary - The Only Upset In Hartford's Late-Summer Primaries - Telling Supporters "The People Were Ready For A Change."** "Douglas McCrary, an assistant principal at Hartford's Weaver High School, defeated eight-term state Rep. Annette W. Carter Tuesday in the 7th House District, pulling the only upset in a late summer, sleeper primary. [...] At 20 percent, voter turnout, while low, was not as apocalyptic as people had feared. The city's races generated interest among loyal voters, who turned out to show their faith in a favored incumbent or, in McCrary's case, turned out to voice discontent. McCrary, who appeared to have run on a lark, credited his surprise win over Carter to a persistent staff and a clear message that the incumbent was taking her district for granted. 'I think the people were ready for a change,'

he said amidst a celebration at a popular North End restaurant and nightclub. 'Annette Carter has had a tremendous run, an excellent run for 16 years, but I think people wanted someone new.' McCrory, 38, said his background as an educator will make him an effective legislator as he pushes to improve the city's schools. He said education and job creation will be his main priorities. Carter, 65, conceded defeat graciously. 'There are no hard feelings and we are prepared to support Mr. McCrory because we are all part of the Democratic family,' she said." [Hartford Courant, 8/13/04]

## **ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETY WITH ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

**Following His 2004 Primary Win, A Hartford Courant Investigation Found That Both McCrory And State Sen. Eric D. Coleman "Garnered The Most Absentee Ballots" In The Aug. 10 Primary And "Shared A Corps Of Supporters, Including One Hartford Activist Who Personally Registered At Least 227 People To Vote Absentee."** "In the Aug. 10 legislative primary, both candidates who garnered the most absentee ballots, state Sen. Eric D. Coleman and state House candidate Doug McCrory, shared a corps of supporters, including one Hartford activist who personally registered at least 227 people to vote absentee. In Coleman's case, election night was a nail-biter, one that left him pacing in the parking lot of his campaign headquarters until 447 absentee ballots from Hartford were counted, most of them in his favor. Coleman ended up winning the election by 418 votes. Without Hartford's absentee ballots, Coleman still would have won, but by 121 votes. [...] Hartford Registrar of Voters Olga I. Aviles has filed a complaint about absentee voting, even though those ballots would not have changed her lopsided loss in the voting booth to Shirley A. Surgeon. Nonetheless, she wants an investigation into her allegations that many of those who voted by absentee ballot didn't meet the requirements of illness or absence. [...] McCrory, who beat 16-year-incumbent state Rep. Annette Carter, benefited greatly from the absentee ballots, especially those in the district where Holloway handled most of the applications. But the ballots were just a fraction of his vote total, and the total was so decisive that not even Carter is challenging the results. McCrory said he didn't handle any absentee balloting in his race. 'It's unfortunate that all the hard work that I did might be overshadowed by people accusing others of doing anything illegal,' he said." [Hartford Courant, 8/21/04]

**The Courant Investigation Detailed Allegations That At Least A Dozen Elderly, Disabled Or Institutionalized Hartford Residents Were Mised, Had Ballots Mishandled, Or Voted Absentee Without Legitimate Reason - Including An 85-Year-Old Blind Voter Who Said He "Just Signed The Paper" And Did Not Know He Was Voting In A Democratic Primary.** "When Sheridan W. Bryan votes, he says, it's always for the Democrats. So when a woman came to Bryan's room at the Chelsea Place Care Center with an absentee ballot for the Aug. 10 election in Hartford, Bryan, who is 85 and blind, said he told her he wanted to vote the way he always does -- for the Democrat. Easy enough. Except the election was a party primary, and all the candidates were Democrats. The woman neglected to tell him, Bryan said. Interviewed in his room at the nursing home on Lorraine Street this week, Bryan could not name any of the candidates on his ballot; nor was he sure for whom he voted. 'I just signed the paper,' he said. [...] At least a dozen elderly, disabled or institutionalized people interviewed by The Courant after the primary describe scenarios in which they were misled when they filled out absentee ballots, their absentee ballots were mishandled, or they voted absentee even though they did not have a legitimate reason to do so. [...] In Hartford's 3rd District, for example, where Coleman won 60 of 87 absentee ballots cast, 70 of those ballots came from Chelsea Place Care Center. In the matchup between Curtis and Coleman in 2002, only 40 absentee ballots were cast from the nursing home. In the 2002 Democratic primary, there were only eight absentee ballots cast from First Village, compared with 32 for last week's primary. Two absentee ballots were cast from Horace Bushnell Towers in 2002, and 23 came in this year." [Hartford Courant, 8/21/04]

# ISSUES

## ABORTION

**In May 2022, McCrory Voted For Connecticut's Far-Reaching Abortion Expansion Bill, But In His Floor Speech Approvingly Cited Rep. Trenee McGee's Speech Saying "Black Women Make Up Only 12% Of The Population But Have 38% Of Abortions" And That Abortion Is "Used As Birth Control In Our Community."** "Sen. Douglas McCrory, a Hartford Democrat who supported the bill, said he has been in the legislature for 17 years and has heard many speeches. One of the best, he said, was McGee's on abortion. He said she noted that Black women make up only 12% of the population but have 38% of abortions. 'She said it's used as birth control in our community,' McCrory said. 'I'm just giving you the facts. You make your own decision. ... Rep. McGee pulled the scab off something. Yes, she did.' McCrory, who later voted for the bill, added, 'Anyone who knows me knows I stay in my lane. ... The issue of women's rights - I don't touch that. Women should do whatever they want with their body.'" [Hartford Courant, 5/01/22]

**McCrory Was One Of Only Two Public Health Committee Democrats To Vote Yes On Republican Rep. Nicole Klarides-Ditria's Religious Refusal Amendment To Connecticut's 2025 Abortion-Regulations Repeal Bill (HB 7213).** Amendment A would have added religious-conscience protection language to the bill, allowing individuals working at outpatient clinics to refuse to provide reproductive health care. The amendment failed 12-18 in committee, with McCrory and Rep. Henry Genga (D-East Hartford, who switched his vote yes on the second roll-call pass) the only Democrats joining all ten Republicans on the committee in support. The underlying bill became Public Act 25-28, "An Act Concerning Access to Reproductive Health Care," later that session. [PH Vote Tally Sheet-A, [3/27/25](#)]

- **Klarides-Ditria, The Amendment's Republican Sponsor, Argued The Carve-Out Was Needed Because Repealing The Regulations Was A "Government Action" And Not Really Health Care, Creating A "Gray Area" That Existing Federal Religious-Freedom Protections Did Not Cover.** "I respectfully disagree. I think it's a government action and it's not really health care, I think it's not completely clear that that's what you're saying. It's doing, which is, again, why we want to pass this amendment, so we have that protection, so that there's no gray area that we've talked about many times again today." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]
- **Lead Senate Bill Proponent And Public Health Committee Co-Chair Sen. Saud Anwar (D) Opposed The Amendment On The Record, Telling Members Existing Federal Religious-Freedom Protections Were Not At Risk And Did Not Need A New State-Level Carve-Out: "There Is No Concern, As Far As I Know, That We Are Losing... A Federal Protection Of Free Speech And Religious Freedom."** "The earlier conversation about federal legislation and state adding state protections, those have been for things that we believe are at risk at the federal level, there is no concern, as far as I know, that we are losing, or believe that we will lose, a federal protection of free speech and religious freedom. That is one difference." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]

**McCrory Was The Lone Public Health Committee Democrat To Vote Yes On Republican Rep. Tracy Marra's Amendment Adding A Hospital-Only Restriction On Later-Term Abortions Into Connecticut Statute.** Amendment C would have added new statutory language that "all induced abortions after the second trimester shall be done only in a licensed hospital" (later orally modified by Marra to "after viability"). The amendment failed 10-18, with McCrory the only Democrat voting yes alongside Sen. Heather Somers (R) and eight House Republicans. [PH Vote Tally Sheet-C, [3/27/25](#)]

- **Marra, The Amendment's Republican Sponsor, Said She Offered The Hospital-Only Restriction To Address The "Higher Likelihood That A Baby May Be Born Alive" In Later-Term Abortions.** "We've had this conversation, and I think this is one of the things that will tighten those areas in which we may have issues, particularly in later, later term abortions, where we're preserving the life or the health of the mother and and there's a higher likelihood that a baby may be born alive, that if they are in these licensed hospitals." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]
- **Rep. Jillian Gilchrest (D), Speaking In Opposition, Told Marra The Amendment Was Premised On An Inaccurate Reading Of State Law: Existing Connecticut Statute (Section 19a-602) Already Bars Post-Viability Abortion Except When Necessary To Preserve The Life Or Health Of The Patient.** "It seems that the amendment you're proposing is assuming that by repealing the regulations, we are somehow changing state law regarding abortion, pre viability and post viability, which is not the case in Section 19, a 602 of state law, we actually make clear that no abortion may be performed upon a patient after viability of the fetus, except when

necessary to preserve the life or health of the patient that will remain state law [...] we actually don't allow abortion post viability if the fetus is at risk." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]

- **Sen. Saud Anwar (D) Pressed Marra On The Real-World Impact Of A Hospital-Only Mandate Near Catholic Hospitals, Warning That Patients Could Be Forced To Travel Farther For Non-Emergency Care: "If You're In That Area, Then You Have To Figure Out A Way To Go Farther Away."** "I'm trying to understand because the we do not we want the viability part, but if somebody's not going to accept the patient, how do we get them over there? [...] you're reducing that access if, let's say, somebody lives on five, three miles from here, and they have to go to St Francis Hospital and and at that point they cannot, unless it's an emergency, or we create that emergency, they would not get the care." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]

**McCrary Was The Lone Public Health Committee Democrat To Vote Yes On A Republican Amendment Mandating Reporting Of Every Induced Abortion To The Connecticut Department Of Public Health — And Spoke On The Record In Favor Of It.** Republican Sen. Heather Somers's Amendment D would have added back into statute the regulatory reporting requirement repealed by the bill — requiring physicians to report every induced abortion to the Commissioner of Public Health within seven days, including the date, place of procedure, patient's age, town and state of residence, approximate duration of pregnancy, method, and any complications. The amendment failed 11-16, with McCrary the only Democrat voting yes alongside all ten Republicans on the committee. [PH Vote Tally Sheet-D, [3/27/25](#)]

- **McCrary Rose During Debate To Press The Bill's Democratic Co-Chair On The Record, Asking Repeatedly Why The Committee Would Stop Collecting Abortion Data: "If We're Currently Collecting Data, Why Wouldn't We Want To Continue To Collect Data?... We Learn A Lot From Data... Trends... Demographics, All Those Great Things."** "Yeah, I think I'm kind of getting my answer. Why my question? Why wouldn't we want to collect data? [...] My question is, if we're currently collecting data, why wouldn't we want to continue to collect data? [...] already doing it. Why would we not want to continue to collect data? And we learn a lot from data, you know, like some of the comments I've heard earlier, trends that, you know, demographics, all those great things, is that [to the proponent of the amendment]." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]
- **Republican Sen. Heather Somers, The Amendment's Sponsor, Responded To McCrary By Tying Mandatory Abortion-Reporting Data To Intervening In "Young Pregnancies" To "Prevent A Woman From Having To Make The Decision That She May Have To Make."** "I have no idea why we would not want to continue with that. So I appreciate that perspective. I agree with you that we can from the statistical data. Again, this is de identified data. We can identify trends. We can identify, you know, maybe we have a pocket in a certain demographic or a certain age group that we're seeing a spike in, in the rate of abortions at a certain time frame. Maybe we can intervene. [...] We could look at, you know, maybe it's a certain populations that we're seeing a higher spike in, like young pregnancies, that we could intervene, and then therefore we could prevent a woman from having to make the decision that she may have to make, if otherwise not informed." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]
- **Republican Rep. Anne Dauphinais Immediately Followed McCrary's Question By Backing The Reporting Mandate As A Way To Track "Who's Benefiting" From State Funding For Planned Parenthood: "We Give Millions Of Dollars To Planned Parenthood, The Taxpayers Money. There's Absolutely No Reason Why We Can't Collect The Data."** "I just wanted to comment we give millions of dollars to Planned Parenthood, the taxpayers money. There's absolutely no reason why we can't collect the data that, I think the good ranking member just mentioned several reasons why what we gain, the knowledge we gain, who's benefiting from the resources that they're being provided, who's not benefiting, the age, the race, you know, all of those things [...] I highly encourage our colleagues to support this amendment." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]
- **House Co-Chair Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey (D) Opposed The Amendment, Saying The Bill's Whole Point Was To Stop Singling Out Abortion For Different Treatment Than Other Health Care: "Not To Single It Out And Make A Series Of Different Recommendations."** "I believe that this goes back to the same general principle that I've been sharing today, which is the idea is to regulate and provide for the safety of abortion health care, as we do for health care in our state, not to single it out and make a series of different recommendations, and we want to make sure that we continue to provide for safety, for the religious freedom. I certainly understand the proponents desire to have that information, but I don't believe that it is necessary from a safety standpoint at this point, and I would urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment." [Public Health Committee Meeting Transcript, [3/26-27/25](#)]

**In January 2019, McCrory Filed Senate Bill 742 That Would Have Required Connecticut Craft Breweries To Choose Between A Tap Room Or Distribution - A Bill That Brewers Said Would "Cripple" The 80-Plus Connecticut Craft Brewing Industry. McCrory Said "This Was Never What We Intended When We Created The Industry In 2005."** "Joe Ploof, chief revenue officer and founder of Hanging Hills Brewing Company, said if the legislation proposed by Rep. Brandon McGee and Sen. Doug McCrory passes, he will have to lay off five of his six employees. That's because the two separate bills would force him to choose between closing his tap room or ending distribution of his craft brews. 'If we end distribution then it means the consumer has to come to me,' Ploof said. He said he did \$1.1 million in sales last year, including \$400,000 at his Ledyard Street tap room. 'I don't understand the animosity toward an industry that brought in \$718 million in tourist revenue,' Ploof said in a phone interview Wednesday. [...] However, McCrory is not backing down from a fight. He said his bill is very much alive. 'This was never what we intended when we created the industry in 2005,' McCrory said. He said there's a Florida company, Engine 15, that wants to come in and build a 4,200-square-foot, 30-tap brewpub and waterfront 'biergarten' on the Housatonic River in Milford. [...] It's still unclear why McCrory, a Hartford lawmaker, is concerned about a new business in Milford. However, without knowing McCrory's motivations for the legislation, Ploof speculated that it might have something to do with the big beer distributors. He said the large beer distributors in Connecticut won't distribute the beers from craft breweries because their big clients are the large beer companies like Anheuser-Busch and Heineken. 'The large scale distributors for big light lagers are feeling the pressure,' Ploof said." [CT News Junkie, 1/31/19]

**A January 2019 Stamford Advocate Editorial Slammed McCrory's Brewery Bill, Saying "State Lawmakers Who Drafted Legislation To Block Breweries From Selling Beer In Competition With Restaurants Sound Like They May Have Imbined Too Much Of The Product" And Saying The Beneficiaries Were "National Beer Distributors Such As Anheuser-Busch And Heineken... The Kinds Of Companies That Have Lobbyists And Donate To Political Campaigns."** "State lawmakers who drafted legislation to block breweries from selling beer in competition with restaurants sound like they may have imbibed too much of the product. Only in Connecticut would a business success story inspire an effort to thwart it. Separate legislation proposed by state Rep. Brandon McGee, D-Hartford, and Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, Bloomfield, Windsor, aimed to force breweries to choose between operating as a tap room or sticking to distribution. The beneficiaries of the bills would be national beer distributors such as Anheuser-Busch and Heineken. You know, the kinds of companies that have lobbyists and donate to political campaigns. There are now some 80 craft breweries in Connecticut. You don't need to like beer to recognize it's a growing industry of small businesses in a state thirsting for more of them." [Stamford Advocate, 1/31/19]

**After Brewer Backlash, McCrory Withdrew Senate Bill 742 In Late January/Early February 2019, Saying He Wanted To "Have A Broad Public Debate About How The Manufacturers, Distributors And Retailers Of Beer In Connecticut Can Create A More Equal And Fair System."** "The outcry from the brewers resulted in state Rep. Brandon McGee, D-Hartford, and state Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, dropping their proposals, but McCrory said the conflict between the small brewers and the bigger distributors, wholesalers and retailers needs to be addressed. 'I do believe it is important going forward to have a broad public debate about how the manufacturers, distributors and retailers of beer in Connecticut can create a more equal and fair system,' McCrory said in a written statement when he announced he was pulling his bill. 'My support for small business has not changed. Opportunity, equality and fairness for everyone are my only goals. I hope after having these conversations with all sides that some other piece of legislation that is more palatable to everyone involved can be crafted and considered by the legislature.'" [The Bulletin (Norwich, CT), 2/01/19]

**A February 2019 Hartford Courant Investigation Found McCrory Received \$250 Contributions Each From Executives At Multiple Beer Wholesalers - Including Levine Distributing (An Anheuser-Busch Wholesaler), F&F Distributors, Star Distributors, Northeast Beverage, And Dichello Distributors - During The Cycle In Which He Filed The Anti-Craft-Brewery Bill.** "McCrory received \$250 contributions from executives of Levine Distributing Company, F&F Distributors, Star Distributors, Northeast Beverage and Dichello Distributors in Orange, according to campaign finance filings. He also received \$50 from the same G&G Beverage Distributors executive as McGee. The volume and pricing issues are an excuse large distributors and wholesalers are using 'to push a broader issue, which is that they've seen their sales go down in the last five to 10 years,' Ploof said. 'They're gaining access through donations and punishing us for Bud and Miller sales being down,' he said." [Hartford Courant, 2/03/19]

**An April 2019 Fairfield County Business Journal Article Reported Craft Brewers Remained Worried That McCrory's Anti-Brewery Bill SB 742 Might Be Revived, With Charter Oak Brewing Owner P. Scott Valley Saying "We've Got The Big Guys' Attention Now. And If They Want To, They Can Squish Us Like Bugs."** "Another bill - SB 742, introduced by Sen. Douglas McCrory (D, Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor) - would have required breweries to choose between off-premise or on-premise sale and consumption. Facing similar pressure, McCrory has also pulled his bill from consideration. 'It isn't hard to guess who was behind those bills,' said Mark Szamatulski, co-owner with wife Tess of Veracious Brewing Co. at 246 Main St. in Monroe. 'All you have to do is look at who the top contributors were to

(McGee's) campaign.' During their 2018 campaigns - McCrory ran unopposed - the two men received contributions from executives at Levine Distributing Co., an Anheuser-Busch InBev wholesaler in Norwich; F&F Distributors in New London; Star Distributors in West Haven; and G&G Beverage Distributors in Wallingford. McGee also received financial support from the Connecticut Beer Wholesalers Association. While each of those donations were in the \$50-\$250 range, P. Scott Valley, owner and brewmaster at Charter Oak Brewing at 39B Shelter Rock Road in Danbury, said he was 'disappointed' in the two bills' arrival, and expressed concern that they will be revived in the future. 'I think it will come up again,' he said. 'We've got the big guys' attention now. And if they want to, they can squish us like bugs.'" [Fairfield County Business Journal, 4/15/19]

## BUDGET

### STATE BUDGET (2016-2017)

**In February 2016, Amid Connecticut Budget Cuts, McCrory Said A Tax Increase "Might Be Needed" Saying "It's The Last, Last, Last, Last Thing That's Going To Be On The Table, But If We Have To, That's What We're Going To Have To Do. I Can't See How We're Going To Get Out Of This Situation Without A Slight Tax Increase."** "Rep. Douglas McCrory, a Hartford Democrat, said he is concerned that the state's fiscal crisis will devastate the social services safety net. He also said cuts could undermine worthy new initiatives, such as the governor's criminal justice overhaul. His constituents are worried as well. 'People are concerned whether basic services will still be provided,' McCrory said. 'They're worried about whether they'll be able to see their social worker, they're worried about longer lines at the DMV.' McCrory said he believes a tax increase might be needed. 'It's the last, last, last, last thing that's going to be on the table, but if we have to, that's what we're going to have to do,' he said. 'I can't see how we're going to get out of this situation without a slight tax increase.' McCrory added: 'There's not too many places where you can cut. We're at bare bones already.' A member of the appropriations committee, McCrory was one of just two House Democrats who voted 'no' earlier this week on a proposed pay hike for non-teaching employees at the University of Connecticut. McCrory said the workers may deserve a raise, but he feared it would set a precedent for other state employees, who would also expect a salary bump. 'There has to be shared sacrifice across the board from everybody, from state employees to the different departments, until we can figure how we can structurally change our fiscal policies,' McCrory said." [Hartford Courant, 2/27/16]

**In October 2017 - With Hartford Threatening Bankruptcy - McCrory Led Hartford Democrats Opposing An Override Of Gov. Malloy's Veto Of The Republican Budget, Saying The Republican Plan Offered "Only \$7 Million In Extra Support For The Capital City." McCrory Also Said He Opposed Hartford Filing For Bankruptcy.** "With the threat of bankruptcy hovering over Hartford, Democratic lawmakers said Monday that they're fighting a plan to override Gov. Dannel Malloy's veto of the Republican budget, which offered little additional aid for the troubled capital city. 'We've been asked by members from the other side of the aisle to override the governor's veto,' Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, said. 'And we clearly do not believe that's a great thing to do. Hartford's the capital city. Yes, it's having its financial difficulties, but the Republican budget offers only \$7 million in [extra] support for the capital city.' [...] McCrory, who was joined at a press conference Monday by Arce and State Reps. Joshua Hall and Brandon McGee, both Democrats from Hartford, said he's opposed to the city filing for bankruptcy. 'That's something that I would not support at this point because I don't think we've exhausted all of our measures,' he said. [...] 'We have to get something done very quickly in order to save Hartford,' McCrory added." [Hartford Courant, 10/03/17]

## PENSION REFORM

**On April 16, 2018, At A League Of Women Voters Forum, McCrory Said Connecticut Should Move New State Workers To A "Defined Contribution" Plan — A Position Long Opposed By State Employee Unions.** "Yes, I do believe that new incoming state workers, we need to move toward a defined contribution of the defined contribution plan. But the issue with that is currently, you have so many state employees who are at the highest level, tier, tier one level, nothing is going to change until they start to retire. So that's going to take a while." [League of Women Voters Forum, 4/16/18]

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

**In June 2022, McCrory Was On The 21-Member Board Of Connecticut's New \$875 Million Community Investment Fund (Over Five Years) For Distressed Communities, Representing The Black And Puerto Rican Caucus. The Fund Was A Compromise Over Lamont's "Debt Diet" That McCrory And Other BPRC Members Had Chafed Against.** "To promote a Community Investment Fund that could make \$875 million available to distressed communities

over five years, the office of Gov. Ned Lamont chose a sunny lawn outside a library branch in a Black neighborhood represented by House Speaker Matt Ritter and Sen. Doug McCrory of Hartford. Ritter is one of the program's architects, fashioning what he saw as a marriage of good policy and good politics — providing a stable funding source for needy legislative districts and easing a source of friction between lawmakers and the governor approaching an election. McCrory is one of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus members who had been chafing against the 'debt diet' Lamont proudly announced in February 2019, his second month in office. What Lamont, a Greenwich businessman, saw as healthy for the fiscal waistline was seen by urban Democrats as starvation rations. [...] McCrory, who used to teach school in the neighborhood, offered a made-for-a-political ad compliment about Lamont's role in making the Community Investment Fund a reality. 'This is an investment by the state of Connecticut under the leadership of Gov. Ned Lamont,' McCrory said. 'I've been in the legislature for 17 years, and at no time have we ever committed to make this kind of investment in communities that have been underserved for years.' [...] The Community Investment Fund will be administered by a 21-member board dominated by lawmakers. Ritter and Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney, D-New Haven, are the co-chairs. McCrory is among the members, representing the BPRC." [Connecticut Mirror, 6/10/22]

**In April 2024, McCrory Celebrated A \$900,000 Community Investment Fund Grant For Hartford's Swift Factory, A North End Workforce And Youth Hub. The Swift Factory Houses A Capitol Region Education Council Early Childhood Education Program.** "Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, and the leadership of the renovated Hartford Swift Factory celebrated the latest investment in the site that will help spur development in Hartford's north end. The site received a \$900,000 grant through the Community Investment Fund, which is designed to foster economic development in historically underserved communities across the state. The funds will be used to grow further development at the historic Swift factory and help establish a community Workforce and Youth Hub aimed at improving workforce development for Hartford's north end. 'About a year and a half ago, after the George Floyd killing, myself and some of my colleagues at the Capitol came together and said, 'Hey, we've got to do something different. What we're doing is not working.' We needed to create a community investment fund that would pour resources into those communities that need the most,' McCrory said during the news conference. The Swift factory is owned and operated by North Hartford Partnership, a nonprofit partnership that owns and operates the roughly 80,000-square-foot facility in the formerly abandoned gold leafing factory in Hartford's north end. The campus now serves as a multipurpose hub for local entrepreneurs, offering kitchen and office space as well as services like an early childhood education program run by the Capitol Region Education Council." [CT News Junkie, 4/10/24]

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**On May 10, 2021, McCrory Tweeted Praise For Hartford's Swift Factory Project Supporting "Several Minority-Owned And Women-Owned Businesses."** "Swift Factory in #HartfordCT is a transformative vehicle that supports over several minority-owned and women-owned businesses. This project comes from an engagement process w/ residents who cited jobs + economic development as what was most-needed to help the neighborhood thrive." [@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, [5/10/21](#)]

**On May 10, 2021, McCrory Tweeted Welcoming The CT Future Fund's \$150 Million Investment In Small Businesses, "Particularly Minority-Owned And Women-Owned."** "Small businesses & entrepreneurs need to have access to capital and other financial resources. I welcome the CT Future Fund, which will invest \$150 million in small businesses particularly minority-owned and women-owned businesses." [@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, [5/10/21](#)]

**On June 15, 2021, McCrory Tweeted That The Community Investment Fund 2030 Was "A Significant Opportunity To Provide Direct Support To Communities That For Decades Have Been Underserved And Marginalized."** "The Community Investment Fund 2030 is a significant opportunity to provide direct support to communities that for decades have been underserved and marginalized." [@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, [6/15/21](#)]

**On June 15, 2021, McCrory Tweeted That CIF 2030 Funding Could Invest In Projects That "Will Create Jobs, Help Residents Gain The Skills Needed For A 21st Century Economy."** "With this source of funding we can invest in projects that will create jobs, help residents gain the skills needed for a 21st century economy, and more to meet the needs of the entire family." [@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, [6/15/21](#)]

**On June 9, 2022, CT Senate Dems Quoted McCrory Saying "The Best Part Of This Program Is The Bottom Up Approach" When Promoting CIF 2030.** "'The best part of this program is the bottom up approach. It is a community approach. The community knows what it needs to be successful. We are making systemic change. Transformational change for this community. That is what we need.' - @SenMcCrory" [@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, [6/9/22](#)]

**On September 14, 2022, McCrory Tweeted About Joining The CT Legislature's Manufacturing Technology i4.0 Working Group To Help Small And Mid-Sized Manufacturers.** "Starting the morning off strong at the CT legislature's Manufacturing Technology i4.0 Working Group. This group is collaborating on a plan to help small and mid-sized manufacturers in CT" [[@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 9/14/22](#)]

## **BOND COMMISSION & CONSTITUENCY FUNDING**

**On April 21, 2021, McCrory Tweeted About Recently-Approved State Bond Commission Funding For Hartford Manufacturing Walk-In Centers And A Windsor Complete Street Project.** "Recently, the State Bond Commission approved funding for several projects that will benefit quality of life and economic development including creating 2 walk-in centers to connect #HartfordCT residents w/ manufacturing facilities & #WindsorCT complete street project" [[@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 4/21/21](#)]

**On July 23, 2021, McCrory Tweeted That "Over \$13 Million In New State Funds" Were Coming For Economic Development And Street Improvements In His District.** "Over \$13 million in new state funds are coming to support economic development and street improvements in our communities. These investments will support people's everyday needs: traveling to work, going to local stores, and daily exercise." [[@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 7/23/21](#)]

**On November 29, 2021, McCrory Tweeted About A \$500K Relief Program For Hartford Residents Affected By Summer Storm Flooding, With Up To \$7,500 Grants Available.** "\$500K Relief Program for Hartford Residents Affected by Summer Storm Flooding: Up to \$7,500 grants for building owners, home occupants, and business owners. Eligible activities include: basement sanitation, new boilers, and gutters (1/3)" [[@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 11/29/21](#)]

**On July 29, 2022, McCrory Tweeted That \$1 Million Was Approved For The Boys & Girls Club Of Hartford And YMCA Of Greater Hartford, Noting He Grew Up Going To The BGCH Northwest Club.** "Great news! \$1 million has been approved for the @BGCHartford and the YMCA of Greater Hartford. It will help the Y make upgrades to their Wilson-Gray location and the BGCH renovate their Joseph D. Lapenta Northwest Boys & Girls Club (which I went to growing up)." [[@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 7/29/22](#)]

**On July 29, 2022, McCrory Tweeted That He And Rep. Gibson Secured \$650,000 For Light Fixtures At Bloomfield's Park School Complex Athletic Fields.** "Fantastic news for Bloomfield's student-athletes. Rep. Gibson and I secured \$650,000 for installing light fixtures at the athletic fields at Bloomfield's Park School Complex. This will help youth sports during the fall season and support a safe, fun environment for our kids." [[@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 7/29/22](#)]

**On July 30, 2022, McCrory Tweeted That He And State Rep. Khan Secured \$2 Million To Reconstruct A Median On Route 159 In Windsor, Citing Safety Concerns.** "State Rep. Khan and I are proud to share that \$2 million has been approved to assist reconstruction of a median along Route 159 in Windsor, which has become a safety hazard." [[@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 7/30/22](#)]

**On September 29, 2022, McCrory Tweeted That Over \$5.5 Million Was Approved For Bloomfield To Renovate The Prosser Library And McMahan Wintonbury Library.** "Happy to share that over \$5.5 million has been approved for Bloomfield to renovate and expand the Prosser Library and McMahan Wintonbury Library. Libraries play a pivotal role in the early development of our young people and as community supports for people of all ages." [[@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 9/29/22](#)]

## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND POLICE REFORM**

**After The May 2020 Killing Of George Floyd, McCrory Spoke At A June Symbolic Funeral Procession At The Connecticut Capitol, Saying What Happened Was "The Continuation Of The Devaluing Of Black Lives Since This Country Has Been Formed" And Promising "We're Going To Put Legislation In Place That Makes Sure This Doesn't Happen In Connecticut."** "Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, said he's disappointed he had to be at the action Wednesday and talk about how what happened to George Floyd in Minneapolis makes him feel. 'What we saw in the murder of our brother was the continuation of the devaluing of black lives since this country has been formed,' McCrory said. He said black people are not shocked by what happened. 'Racism and white supremacy are not new to us,' he said. McCrory went on to assert that young people have the right to be angry and upset 'because we have systems in place that need to be disrupted.' He thanked the police officers for being there and reminded the crowd that they aren't the problem. [...] 'It's the system that's in place. The concept of policing. It's the bad apples that need to be weeded out,' McCrory said. 'So we're going to put legislation in place that makes sure this doesn't happen in Connecticut, but you know it already has.' He said they're going to have to have some uncomfortable conversations. McCrory said the white people

in power are going to have to start inviting some 'black folks who don't agree with you to the table.' He said the time for compromise is over, because compromising led to where they are today." [CT News Junkie, 6/03/20]

**At The June 2020 Capitol Floyd Memorial, McCrory Said: "We Are Tired. We Are Numb. We Are Traumatized. And We Don't Know What To Do Next." He Said "For My White Friends Who Are In Power Politically, Financially, You're Going To Have To Start Listening To Us And Collaborating With Us."** "'We're going to have to have some uncomfortable conversations ... kumbaya ... [doesn't] work anymore,' said state Sen. Douglas McCrory, a Democrat from Hartford. 'For my white friends who are in power politically, financially, you're going to have to start listening to us and collaborating with us ... it's time to put words into action.' [...] McCrory said black people 'were not shocked' by the killing of Floyd. 'We are tired. We are numb. We are traumatized. And we don't know what to do next,' McCrory said. 'We are hurting.' 'We have systems in place that need to be disrupted,' he said, pointing to law enforcement, education and health care. 'We are going to put legislation in place. We have to get in front of it.'" [Hartford Courant, 6/04/20]

**In June 2020, McCrory Called For Connecticut Senate Democrats To Tackle "Exclusionary Zoning, Minority Teacher Recruitment, And Inequality In Healthcare" In A July Special Session, Saying "These Are Issues We've Been Talking About For 25 Years. This Is Nothing New."** "Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, said they also want to take up exclusionary zoning, minority teacher recruitment, and inequality in healthcare. 'These are issues we've been talking about for 25 years,' McCrory said. 'This is nothing new.' McCrory said the conversations they're having about housing is not new. Connecticut's exclusionary zoning laws essentially prohibit affordable housing from being built in suburbs and rural towns. 'This is not something new. We all know these facts,' McCrory said." [CT News Junkie, 6/19/20]

**After A June 2020 Spike Of Racially Hostile Incidents Across Connecticut, McCrory Linked The Backlash To Trump: "We Have Some People Who've Always Felt This Way About Black People Specifically, And With The Attitude You Have At The White House, Who Is Dog-Whistling These Ideas Out."** "'People are deciding and showing you how they feel on both sides of the issue,' said state Sen. Doug McCrory, a Democrat representing Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor. 'We have some people who've always felt this way about Black people specifically, and with the attitude you have at the White House, who is dog-whistling these ideas out to people who still feel that way, they have opportunity to express themselves right now.'" [Hartford Courant, 6/28/20]

**On July 29, 2020, McCrory Said He Was "Not Into Symbolism" On Racial Justice And Wanted Action: "Don't Paint Black Lives Matter On Street, Or Don't Put A Flag Up At The Capitol Saying Juneteenth — I Want The Action."** "I am not into symbolism. I mean, I'm not. I'm not gonna stop away from it. I'm not gonna say, Don't point, don't point. Paint Black Lives Matter on street, or don't put a flag up at the Capitol, say, Juneteenth, I want the action and one things we don't do, we don't do the action piece. We get caught up in symbolic symbols and policies, but not changing policies and doing active things to change your life." [DJ Biggmann Interview, 7/29/20]

**On The Last Night Of Connecticut's 2026 Session (May 7, 2026), McCrory Delivered A Loud, Angry, Nine-Minute Floor Speech Against SB 307 Scrubbing "Minority" From DECD Programs In Response To Trump Administration Pressure. McCrory Said: "I'm Sick And Tired Of Always Having To Compromise To Make Other People Happy. I'm Sick Of It." He Voted For The Bill Despite His Anger.** "Sen. Gary Winfield of New Haven and Sen. Doug McCrory of Hartford, both of whom are Black, responded sharply, though they ultimately voted for it. [...] 'I don't like the fact that we even have this bill,' Winfield said during the debate. 'I don't like the fact that minoritized populations are disappearing out of our statutes. They are disappearing off our web sites. They still exist.' McCrory was louder, angrier. 'I'm sick and tired of always having to compromise, to make other people happy. I'm sick of it,' McCrory said. 'It's what's been happening in this country since people have been brought to these shores. We've been compromising, compromising to make others happy.' McCrory was yelling. Gov. Ned Lamont was on a glad-handing stroll through the House and up one floor to the Senate when he stopped, watching an angry McCrory punch the air as he spoke. Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, D-Norwalk, came out to greet the governor and deliver a curt message: Not a good time. Lamont and Duff chatted. The governor left without entering the chamber." [Connecticut Mirror, 5/07/26]

**On May 7, 2026, McCrory Likened Connecticut's Legislative Compromise On Removing "Minority" Language To The Reconstruction-Era Compromise Of 1877: "I Have Never, Never Cried Race For Any Piece Of Policy... This Is What Has Been Happening In This Country Since People Were Brought To These Shores, For 400 Years."** "Then, during a nine-minute monologue, state Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, likened the order to the period of Reconstruction after the Civil War, when recently freed slaves briefly had rights that were lost in legislative compromises in 1877 that led to Jim Crow laws and sanctioned racial discrimination. 'I'm sick of compromising,' said McCrory, standing up, holding a microphone in the packed chamber, as Lamont looked into the open door and then went back down to his second-floor office, avoiding the scene. 'I have never, never cried race for any piece of policy. I will say this: This is what has been happening in this country since people were brought to these shores, for 400 years,' McCrory said. 'We've been compromising, compromising, compromising, to make others happy. We had something good here and now we're going

to change it. I'm not all right. You can ask me.' McCrory, who was first elected to the House in 2004, reviewed a brief history of free, thriving Black communities in the dozen years after the Civil War. 'It went away because of political compromise,' he said. 'There were equal Americans. What happened after that: Jim Crow,' he said of the enforced local laws against Blacks. The bill passed, 36-0." [Connecticut Post, 5/07/26]

**In July 2006, McCrory Was Among Lawmakers Pushing A Bill To Pay Wrongfully Convicted Hartford Man James Tillman \$50,000 A Year For Each Of His 18 Years Wrongfully Imprisoned - About \$900,000 - Saying There Was "An Effect On The Family" In Addition To Tillman's Lost Years.** "Now it's the state's turn to get it right. Reimbursing Tillman for a debt he needlessly paid to society should be one of the top priorities of next year's legislative session. Seems that almost everyone, from the governor on down, agrees that Tillman, who was wrongfully convicted and incarcerated on rape charges at age 26, should be compensated. The question, of course, is what value do you place on a loss of freedom? ``When you take away 18 years of a person's life for a crime he didn't commit, that's not only 18 years out of his life, but his family's too," said Hartford state Rep. Doug McCrory. ``There's an effect on the family, and we don't know what this man could have been capable of accomplishing in 18 years, financially or otherwise." McCrory is among a number of legislators who are talking about introducing a bill next year that would compensate the affable Tillman \$50,000 a year for the 18 lost years. Is \$900,000 fair value for an innocent man locked up in a cell for nearly two decades?" [Hartford Courant, 7/29/06]

**In September 2009, McCrory - Then Co-Chairman Of The Legislature's Appropriations Subcommittee On Judicial And Corrections - Successfully Pushed To Restore \$1.4 Million (\$700,000 Annually Over Two Fiscal Years) For Programs Helping Children Of Incarcerated Parents That Gov. Jodi Rell Had Marked For Cuts.** "The new state budget provides \$1.4 million -- \$700,000 annually for the next two fiscal years -- for programs designed to help children who have parents in prison. [...] State Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, advocated for putting the \$1.4 million in the budget. 'When a parent commits a crime and is sent to prison, innocent children suffer and become part of a new at-risk population,' said McCrory, co-chairman of the legislature's Appropriations Subcommittee on Judicial and Corrections. 'Research shows that if your parents have been incarcerated, you are more likely to be. As a civilized society, we have a responsibility to reach out to these children, and this is a proven way to reduce future delinquency,' he said. McCrory said he wants the funding to be used to ensure these children are in good environments. 'I want to make sure that the focus of this money is on the children,' McCrory said. 'I think, in the long run, it will benefit the state. It costs about \$40,000 a year to keep someone incarcerated. In the long run, it will be better for taxpayers.' TOO EXPENSIVE? Gov. M. Jodi Rell had included the \$1.4 million on a list of proposed cuts." [New Haven Register, 9/20/09]

**In September 2009, McCrory - As Subcommittee Co-Chairman Overseeing Prisons - Said Lawmakers "Purposely Avoided Tying The Hands Of The Correction Commissioner" When Imposing \$63.4 Million In Two-Year Department Of Correction Cuts, And Suggested Moving Nonviolent Criminals To Halfway Houses To Save Money.** "Just save the money. That's what the state's prisons are being told by the legislature. All state agencies have been saving money during the deep economic downturn, but the Department of Correction is being told to find \$63.4 million in savings over two years under the new state budget. [...] State Rep. Douglas McCrory, who serves as a subcommittee co-chairman overseeing prisons, said that lawmakers purposely avoided tying the hands of the correction commissioner during budget talks earlier this year. Instead, they wanted department officials to make the decisions about where to cut. The state's prison population has been dropping since a peak that came after the triple killings in Cheshire in July 2007, which prompted a freeze in the state's parole system. The all-time high population in the prisons was 19,894 inmates on Feb. 1, 2008, according to the correction department. Today, that number has dropped by about 1,000. With the cost of incarcerating the average inmate at about \$40,000 per year, the state can save money this year by moving nonviolent criminals to halfway houses and group homes, McCrory said. 'Our prison population has declined over the last year and a half,' McCrory said." [Hartford Courant, 9/21/09]

**In A September 2009 Press Release Item, McCrory Took Credit For Securing \$1.4 Million For The Department Of Correction's Children Of Incarcerated Parents Program Through Fiscal Year 2011 After Gov. Rell Had Proposed Eliminating It.** "State Rep. Douglas McCrory, who represents Hartford in the Connecticut General Assembly, was able to secure funding in the recently adopted state budget for a successful program that provides services for children who have parents in prison. Gov. Rell had proposed eliminating the Department of Correction's Children of Incarcerated Parents program, but McCrory worked with legislative leaders to put \$1.4 million in the General Assembly's budget to continue the program through the 2011 fiscal year. 'When a parent commits a crime and is sent to prison, innocent children suffer and become part of a new at-risk population,' said McCrory, who co-chairs the legislature's Appropriations Subcommittee on Judicial and Corrections. 'As a civilized society we have a responsibility to reach out to these children, and this is a proven way to reduce future delinquency and saves taxpayers in the long run.' Program services include counseling, peer support groups and mentoring. Goals of the program include reducing recidivism by helping families maintain ties during incarceration and assisting with family reunification through re-entry planning. The Connecticut Commission on Children estimates over 17,000 state kids have incarcerated parents, which can often lead to social isolation, aggressive behavior

and poor school performance. About half of children with parents in prison are under age 10 according to a national estimate." [Hartford Courant, 9/27/09]

## POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

**In June 2015, McCrory Was Among Black And Puerto Rican Caucus Members Pushing The "Excessive Force" Bill Requiring Body Cameras For Connecticut State Police And Allowing \$15M In Bond Funding For Municipal Body Cameras. McCrory Linked The Bill To The Charleston Church Shooting And South Carolina Pastor Clementa Pinckney's Body Camera Advocacy.** "The state House of Representatives opened Monday's special session with a moment of silence for the nine people killed June 17 by a gunman at a black South Carolina church, and invoked their memory again when passing a bill to address the use of excessive of force by police officers. [...] State Rep. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, said Emanuel AME Church pastor and South Carolina Sen. Clementa Pinckney died because he advocated for the use of body cameras after Walter Scott, an unarmed black man, was shot in the back by North Charleston police officer Michael Slager in April. The church shooting occurred one week after legislation requiring mandatory police body cameras was signed into law by South Carolina's governor. McCrory said that if South Carolina can overcome its history as a red state, which seceded from the union during the Civil War, to make a priority of addressing an issue that disproportionately affects minorities, there's no reason Connecticut shouldn't do the same. 'I ask all of us to stand up and be like South Carolina and protect all our citizens and give the support to all our police officers by instituting this language,' McCrory said. The bill requires body cameras for all sworn officers of the Connecticut State Police and state university system. It also relies on \$15 million in bond funding to provide body cameras for municipal police departments that apply for the grants. The legislation says the cameras must be used whenever officers are interacting with the public on the job. [...] The House voted 108-37 after several hours of sometimes painful debate for minority lawmakers, who were visibly upset over some of their colleagues' perceived lack of understanding about the history of racism in the United States." [New Haven Register, 6/30/15]

**In July 2020, McCrory Questioned The Federal Pentagon Surplus Equipment Program For Police, Asking "How Much Of This Do We Really Need?" And Backed Civilian Review Boards With Subpoena Powers In The Black And Puerto Rican Caucus's Police Accountability Special Session Agenda.** "Sen. Doug McCrory, a Hartford Democrat who also represents Bloomfield and Windsor, said he is concerned about the federal program that awards military equipment to both the state and local police. Local chiefs have pledged for a 90-day pause on the acquiring of the equipment, including high-powered guns and armored vehicles. 'How much of this do we really need?' McCrory asked. He also called for allowing civilian review boards to have subpoena powers for investigations, along with ensuring that students in the cities have increased access to the internet. He said the legislature needs to capitalize on the public's high level of interest and move quickly because they currently have momentum for reform. Otherwise, he said the issues could fade away in the same way that the legislature has failed to approve sports betting and the legalization of recreational marijuana. 'The issue is going to be how much are we going to actually do in July, how much are we going to do in September, and how much are we going to do next year?' said McCrory, a legislative veteran who was first elected in 2004. 'I know how this place works. If you don't get stuff done now, in two or three weeks we're on to another topic and everybody forgot about it.'" [Hartford Courant, 7/08/20]

**On July 28-29, 2020, McCrory Was A Co-Sponsor And Yes Vote On HB 6004, The Police Accountability Act, Which Passed The Senate 21-15 During The Special Session After George Floyd's Death.** "A divided state Senate shouldered past the fierce opposition of Connecticut police unions early Wednesday to vote 21-15 for final passage of a police accountability bill that both capitalizes on and addresses the outrage over the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The bill creates the office of an inspector general to investigate complaints of police misconduct, requires police and correction officers to intervene when witnessing brutality, mandates body and dash cameras, bans chokeholds in most circumstances and clarifies that deadly force can be used only when police exhaust all reasonable alternatives." [CT Mirror, [7/29/20](#)]

**On July 28, 2020, McCrory Spoke On The Senate Floor In Support Of The Police Accountability Act, Saying Every Black Man Knows The Experience Of Being Suspect: "That's Why We're Passionate. That's Why We're Angry."** "Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, an educator in Hartford, said every Black man knows the experience of being suspect in the eyes of police, and every Black legislator knows the frustration of still having to explain why reforms are necessary, even after the killing of George Floyd. 'That's why we're passionate. That's why we're angry,' McCrory said. 'We can't understand why we're treated this way.'" [CT Mirror, [7/29/20](#)]

## MARIJUANA

## PRE-LEGALIZATION SKEPTICISM (2018-2019)

**In March 2018, McCrory - As A Member Of The Judiciary Committee - Said He Would Block Connecticut Marijuana Legalization Unless It Provided An Avenue For People With Prior Drug Convictions In Communities Hardest Hit By Prohibition: "I'm Not Worried About You. I'm Worried About Juan, Jose And Malik, Because They Can't Represent Up Here."**

"Committee member Sen. Douglas McCrory, a Democrat, said he would not support any legislation if it did not deal with healing the communities that have and continue to suffer from marijuana prohibition. McCrory said California and Massachusetts have encouraged those with prior convictions to become a part of the legal recreational industry 'because they wanted to make sure those communities, in which that person was from, was able to get into the game.' According to a Washington Post report, at least nine states have passed laws expunging or reducing marijuana convictions. Maryland, Oregon and Vermont also now allow convictions for marijuana offenses that are not crimes under current law to be wiped off a criminal record. 'I'm not worried about you,' McCrory said to Wakeman. 'I'm worried about Juan, Jose and Malik, because they can't represent up here. ... I'm not supporting anything, and I will do my best to prevent anything from happening, if they can't get in the game.'" [Hartford Courant, 3/20/18]

**In February 2019, McCrory Said Marijuana Laws "Have A Long History Of Targeting Minority Communities" And Called Connecticut's Current Policy "Racist," Saying He Would Not Support Legalization Without Expungement Of Criminal Records: "If Expungement Is Not Part Of The Conversation, I Won't Support It."**

"Members of the caucus outlined several proposals at the Legislative Office Building on Wednesday, including one to legalize recreational use. Under the marijuana bill, people 21 years old or older would be allowed to possess up to 1 ounce of the drug, and people would be allowed to grow marijuana at their homes. [...] 'We have an opportunity here in Connecticut to right a wrong,' said Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Bloomfield. Considering marijuana has been legalized in several states and stock in marijuana companies can be traded on Wall Street, he said any new law in Connecticut must include expungement of criminal records. 'If expungement is not part of the conversation, I won't support it,' McCrory said. Rep. Vincent Candelora, R-Durham, said the state already has a process for clearing criminal records, and expungement should not be tied to marijuana legislation. 'I don't see the correlation between expungement and legalizing marijuana,' he said. 'They're two distinct subjects.' McCrory said marijuana laws have a long history of targeting minority communities and the state's current policy is 'racist.'" [Journal Inquirer, 2/07/19]

**In March 2019, McCrory Was The Sole Democrat On The Connecticut General Law Committee To Vote Against The Legal Cannabis Bill, Saying It Did Not Go Far Enough To Address Racial Equity. He Called The War On Drugs "Racist In Its Intent" And Said Connecticut's Policy Was "Left Over From The Jim Crow Era."**

"Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, said the bill doesn't go far enough and voted against the legislation. He said the 'War on Drugs' was racist in its intent. 'My point is we have a policy that's left over from the Jim Crow era. It's probably the last one,' McCrory said. He said he isn't going to argue about the medical data and whether cannabis is harmful, a focus of many Republicans on the committee. McCrory said he won't support a bill in which Connecticut's law is anything less than the gold standard of equity for those whose lives have been most impacted by racially disparate enforcement policies. He said Connecticut has a chance to stand up for the past 80 years of prohibition that has harmed his community." [CT News Junkie, 3/25/19]

**Per A March 2019 Hartford Courant Account, McCrory Cited His Own Hartford Upbringing In Voting Against The Cannabis Bill: "People In His Neighborhood Were Penalized Far More Harshly For Small Amounts Of Cannabis Than Were His Fellow Students At The University Of Hartford."**

"No one can dispute that cannabis prohibition was racist from its intent,' said Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford. 'We have a policy that's been left over from the Jim Crow era.' For McCrory, addressing those past inequities is essential and he was the sole Democrat on the committee to reject the measure, saying it does not go far enough to fix racial disparities in the criminal justice system. 'We have an opportunity to stand up for righteousness, stand up for people have been harmed,' McCrory said. McCrory, who grew up in Hartford's North End, told his colleagues he witnessed those discrepancies firsthand. People in his neighborhood were penalized far more harshly for small amounts of cannabis than were his fellow students at the University of Hartford, he said." [Hartford Courant, 3/26/19]

## PUSH FOR EQUITY (2020-EARLY 2021)

**In January 2020, McCrory Was Tapped To Present The Senate Democrats' Marijuana Legalization Bill And Said "Equity, Expungement And Economic Opportunity For Marginalized Communities" Were All Critical, Conceding 2020 Passage Was "A Lot For Some People - Not All People - To Chew On."**

"Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, said the equity provision will be a key component of the bill. 'Equity, expungement and economic opportunity for marginalized communities: all three are clearly important,' McCrory said. [...] McCrory, who will present the Senate Democrats' legalization bill on Thursday, agreed that winning passage this year could prove challenging. 'It's a short

session, an election year and you have issues around tolling,' McCrory said. 'That's a lot for some people - not all people - to chew on.'" [Hartford Courant, 1/22/20]

## SB 1118 VOTE & DEMATTEO PROVISION (JUNE 2021)

**On June 8, 2021, In A Tense 19-17 Senate Vote, Connecticut Narrowly Passed Marijuana Legalization. McCrory - "Furious" That Senate Leadership Had Stripped A Provision He Wanted - Withheld His Vote For Eight Minutes Before Casting Yes At The Very Last Minute. After The Vote, "McCrory Left Without Comment."** "But for 11 minutes after the debate ended and voting began, passage was unclear. The tally was 16-16, with four Democrats missing: Steve Cassano of Manchester, Douglas McCrory of Hartford, Patricia Billie Miller of Stamford and Marilyn Moore of Bridgeport. Moore voted yes, making the tally 17-16 after nearly eight minutes. McCrory, who was furious at the Senate for striking a provision he wanted, cast a yes vote three minutes later, pushing the vote to 18-16 in favor. Miller, who said she long had been opposed to legalization, cast the 19th yes vote. The victory assured, Cassano cast a final no vote. 'Tough vote,' Moore said. 'I was still contemplating it at the end,' Miller said. McCrory left without comment. [...] McCrory, Miller and Moore are members of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus that pressed for social equity provisions that direct the majority of cannabis revenue into the cities most affected by the enforcement of drug laws." [Berlin Citizen, 6/10/21]

**On June 8, 2021, McCrory Voted Yes On SB 1118 Legalizing Recreational Cannabis After A Last-Minute Provision He Inserted Was Stripped From The Bill — A Provision That Would Have Allowed Theraplant Investor J.D. DeMatteo To Skip The License Lottery.** "After talks with DeMatteo, McCrory insisted colleagues insert a provision at the bottom of a 297-page cannabis legalization bill. The addition was intended to allow DeMatteo to jump what is expected to be a very long line for a cultivation license — if he took on and mentored a social equity partner. McCrory's provision drew questions and objections Sunday and was stripped from the bill early in the Senate debate on the bill Monday night. McCrory was furious, but ultimately joined the majority voting 19-17 for passage after midnight." [CT Mirror, [6/11/21](#)]

**In June 2021, McCrory Acknowledged The Stripped Cannabis Provision Was Written With DeMatteo In Mind, Calling Him "The Connecticut Guy" Willing To Partner With A Social Equity Applicant.** "McCrory acknowledged the language was written with DeMatteo in mind, though it could apply to others. He called DeMatteo 'the Connecticut guy,' a reflection of his local roots in a business rapidly turning to multi-state interests. 'The Connecticut guy is interested and willing to go an extra step,' McCrory said. 'They're willing to partner with a social equity applicant in terms of allowing them to learn grow their product.'" [CT Mirror, [6/11/21](#)]

**A June 2021 Connecticut Mirror Investigation Revealed That McCrory Had Insisted Colleagues Insert A Provision At The Bottom Of The 297-Page Marijuana Legalization Bill That Would Have Allowed Theraplant Investor J.D. DeMatteo To "Jump A Very Long Line For A Cultivation License" If He Took On A Social Equity Partner. The Provision Was Stripped After Public Objection.** "J.D. DeMatteo is a wealthy investor about to profit from the \$100 million sale of Theraplant, the first of Connecticut's four licensed producers of medical marijuana. Doug McCrory is a state senator and educator from Hartford, one of the nation's poorest cities. From starkly different vantages, both saw opportunity in the prospect of the state legalizing the sale of recreational cannabis to anyone 21 or older, exponentially increasing a market now limited to the 54,245 holders of medical marijuana cards. DeMatteo's interest in getting one of the first licenses to produce marijuana for the recreational market coincided with McCrory's desire to open the industry to 'social equity' applicants from poor and urban neighborhoods disproportionately affected by the war on drugs. After talks with DeMatteo, McCrory insisted colleagues insert a provision at the bottom of a 297-page cannabis legalization bill. The addition was intended to allow DeMatteo to jump what is expected to be a very long line for a cultivation license - if he took on and mentored a social equity partner. 'There was no quid pro quo. It was a talk about the future and how he could participate and how a minority member could participate. There is no nefarious side to it,' said John F. Droney Jr., a lawyer who represents Theraplant and DeMatteo." [Connecticut Mirror via Hartford Courant, 6/15/21]

## EDUCATION

**July 2024: McCrory Boasted That "95% Of My Bills That Come Out Of Education Pass At A Bipartisan Level" And "I Can Work With Republicans, I Can Work With Democrats."** "I have the skill sets that I learned by going to school out in my community for the first eight years. That was the best experience I ever had. But more importantly, going to school with other people from other backgrounds gave me the insight to understanding how systems work. [...] That's why I'm successful at working across the aisle. 95% of my bills that come out of education pass a bipartisan level. 95% no other committee has that. So again, I can work with Republicans. I can work with Democrats. I can work with anybody, if they're willing to work with me." [Jonathan Small Interview, 7/30/24]

**2020: McCrory Said It Was "A Sin" That Less Than Half Of Connecticut's Children Could Read And Do Math On Grade Level By Eighth Grade. He Pushed Funding For Minority Teacher Recruitment And Mandatory Social-Emotional Learning Training.** "Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, co-chairman of the committee, said that every year, the achievement gap is discussed then put aside with little movement. 'In 2020, we have to find some real solutions around where we're going in Connecticut when it comes to education,' he said. McCrory said it was a 'sin' that less than half of the state's children can read and do math on grade level by the eighth grade, regardless of whether they're in one of the state's lowest performing school districts. He said it was incumbent on the committee and the legislature to change the 'trajectory' for students. 'We are all in this boat together. We are either going to sail or we're going to fail, together,' he said. Among the ways McCrory and his fellow committee leaders are seeking to attack the problem is by building on a bill passed last session that encourages the recruitment and retention of minority teachers. McCrory said funding for the initiative wasn't attached to the bill, something he said the committee would seek to incorporate this session. Another way is by ensuring that teachers are trained in social-emotional learning [...] 'All of our educators have to be prepared for working with the children that are in front of them before they come into the classroom,' McCrory said." [Journal Inquirer, 2/11/20]

**August 2019 McCrory Responded To Kids Count Data Showing A 30 Percent Increase In Connecticut Children Living In Poverty Over 30 Years, Saying "You Can't Be What You Don't See" And Calling For More Teachers Of Color.** "Sen. Douglas McCrory, a Hartford Democrat and co-chair of the legislature's education committee, said the information shows there is more work to be done in the state, and opportunity is not universal for all children. 'There's a lot more effort needed from all of us,' he said. McCrory urged for more teachers of color in the state, which would provide children with role models and people whose might have different perspectives and push students succeed, he said. 'You can't be what you don't see,' McCrory said." [Hartford Courant, 8/01/19]

**2008: In An Election Guide Questionnaire, McCrory Said "Our Schools Are Failing Across The Board" And Identified Education As His Top Issue, Citing Teacher Recruitment, Class Sizes, Student Engagement, And Parent Participation As Key Concerns.** "Top Issue[:] Education: Our schools are failing across the board. We need to focus on teacher recruitment as the size of the classrooms increase. It is important to find a way to engage students to learn and improve their attention/involvement in the classroom. Finally, we cannot do all of this without an increase in parent participation and support. The state has seen the inmate population increase tremendously over the past 10 years. We need to focus on educating, rehabilitating and training those who have been incarcerated. The only way to curb and reduce recidivism is to provide inmates with basic skills that will enable them to coexist in their communities. Education, jobs and personal health is very important to survive in today's society." [Hartford Courant, 10/26/08]

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN/LATINO HISTORY CURRICULUM**

**In May 2019, McCrory Delivered An "Emotional Speech" On The Senate Floor As The Connecticut Senate Unanimously Passed A Bill Requiring Schools To Offer An African American, Puerto Rican And Latino History Course By 2022. McCrory Said: "If You Were Never Told You Did Anything, Then You Will Never Believe You Can Do Anything."** "Connecticut schools will be required to offer a course in African American, Puerto Rican and Latino history by 2022 under a bill unanimously approved by the state Senate late Thursday. The Senate vote came days after the House of Representatives endorsed the plan. The bill now goes to Gov. Ned Lamont for consideration. The vote came after an emotional speech by Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, who said that for students to be successful, the curriculum they are taught must be rigorous and relevant to their lives. Noting few students consider history or social studies to be their favorite subject, McCrory said, 'Well, if you were sitting in a classroom and all you learned was that you was a slave and you was trouble and you didn't bring anything to this country, then you wouldn't think that subject was very important to you either. You see the problem we have is, if you were never told you did anything, then you will never believe you can do anything.' McCrory, a longtime educator, said that during the Reconstruction period after the Civil War, America had five black Congressmen, but 'no one told us, no one told us ... Now, that's the type of history that would motivate you.' He said 'providing a curriculum where everyone can benefit and everyone can learn about the positive things they've done will provide opportunity for all of us to see.' [...] The fiscal note includes one-time costs of \$400,000 for curriculum development as well as the annual salary of a full time staff member - \$85,000 plus \$35,012 in fringe benefits - to ensure districts meet the requirement." [Hearst CT Media, 5/31/19]

**In His May 2019 Senate Floor Speech On The African American/Latino Studies Bill, McCrory Invoked Slain California Rapper Nipsey Huddle And Recited Lyrics From Jay Z's "Legacy."** "African American and Latino studies will be a required part of the public school curriculum in Connecticut by 2022 under a bill unanimously approved by the Senate on Thursday night. The measure, which cleared the House of Representatives earlier, now heads to Lamont for consideration. In an emotional speech on the Senate floor, Sen. Douglas McCrory, a Democrat from Hartford, spoke of

the need for a more inclusive history curriculum. He invoked Nipsey Hussle, the California rapper and community activist who was shot to death in March, and recited a few lyrics from Jay Z's 'Legacy.'" [Hartford Courant, 6/01/19]

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

**On December 3, 2014, Then-Rep. McCrory Joined A ConnCAN Charter School Advocacy Rally On The New Haven Green, Telling Family Members From Both Networks: "Do Not Let The System Divide You."** "At a ConnCAN-organized rally on the New Haven Green, Hartford State Rep. Doug McCrory spoke to family members outside of the charter school network, saying "Do not let the system divide you" and that "Neighborhood schools and charter schools" should work together. ConnCAN was Connecticut's leading pro-charter advocacy group and the rally was timed to the legislative funding fight over \$40,000 per pupil for 'failing' schools." [CT Mirror, [12/3/14](#)]

**In March 2023, McCrory's Senate Bill 1096 To Strip The Connecticut Legislature From The Charter School Approval Process Narrowly Passed The Education Committee 30-13. McCrory Said: "It's Time For Us And This State To Give Our Parents A Choice And Give These Children A Chance."** "A bill that removes approval and funding barriers for new charter schools narrowly passed the General Assembly's Education Committee on Friday amid concerns over political blowback from organizations opposed to charter schools. SB 1096 would strip a 2015 requirement that new charter schools receive an initial certificate of approval from the state Board of Education before starting the often year-long process of gaining final approval from the state board. The bill would also establish a grant account to fund new schools instead of the legislature having to formally approve all funding for new charter schools. 'I think it's time for us and this state to give our parents a choice and give these children a chance,' said Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford. The bill was voted out of the committee with 30 votes in favor, 13 opposed, and one abstention. [...] McCrory argued that the state needed more charter schools to address Connecticut's severe education gap, which often falls along demographically racial divides. 'After George Floyd died there was an awakening in this country and we started to listen to folks. I listened deeply,' McCrory said. 'I don't have a definition for institutional racism. I have a definition for structural racism, but I know what it looks like. I know what it feels like. More importantly, I know how it impacts my community.'" [CT News Junkie, 3/24/23]

**On March 24, 2023, McCrory As Education Committee Co-Chair Pushed Through SB 1096 Which Would Have Stripped The Legislature From The Charter School Approval Process; The Bill Cleared Committee Despite Opposition From CEA And AFT Unions.** "A bill that would remove the legislature from the process of approving charter schools in Connecticut, which advocates say will allow these institutions to open more quickly, was approved by the Education Committee on Friday despite a Thursday evening email from two teacher's unions that several lawmakers viewed as a 'threat.' The bill would reverse a 2015 law that requires approval from the state Board of Education and the legislature before a charter school can open." [CT Mirror, [3/24/23](#)]

**On March 24, 2023, McCrory Publicly Attacked CEA And AFT For Saying The Charter Bill Vote Would Appear On Their Legislative Scorecard, Saying It Had "Placed A Bull's-Eye On Each And Every Single One Of Our Backs."** "Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, who is also a co-chair on the committee, said in 19 years of serving as a state legislator, he had never received an email like that. 'You all read the letter, and they're going to take score of how you all vote on this one piece of legislation,' McCrory said. 'That letter that came from CEA and AFT was very, very — I don't even want to use the word — and unfortunately, that has placed a bull's-eye on each and every single one of our backs.'" [CT Mirror, [3/24/23](#)]

**On March 24, 2023, McCrory Closed His SB 1096 Floor Speech Shouting And Demanding A Roll Call Vote: "I Want Everybody To Have To Put Their Name On It! Let This Country And Let The State Know Where You Stand."** "He urged passage after a 30-minute speech that ended with him shouting. 'I think it's time for us in this state to give our parents a choice and give these children a chance,' McCrory said. 'I want this vote to be taken by roll call because I want everybody to have to put their name on it! Let this country and let the state know where you stand.' The audience applauded, and the bill cleared his committee, but it never came to a vote in the Senate." [CT Mirror, [3/24/23](#)]

**On March 24, 2023, McCrory Defended Charter Schools In Racial Equity Terms, Saying "Largely Black And Brown Children And Families ... They're Poor, And They Want Another Option."** "Residents of color across the state continue to demand more school choices, McCrory said. 'These communities ... who are underserved, marginalized, underrepresented and under-resourced ... these [communities are] largely Black and brown children and families, and they're poor, and they want another option,' McCrory said. 'It's time for us in this state to give our parents a choice and give these children a chance.'" [CT Mirror, [3/24/23](#)]

**Before The March 2023 Charter School Bill Vote, McCrory Said In 19 Years As A Legislator He Had "Never" Received An Email Like One The CEA And AFT Connecticut Sent The Night Before, Saying It Had "Placed A Bull's-Eye On Each And Every Single One Of Our Backs."** "McCrory also spoke to the email, which he said was sent to every committee member on Wednesday, March 22. 'I have never in my 19 years here been vaguely threatened about how I vote on a certain piece of legislation,' he said. 'You all read the letter. They're going to take score of how you all vote on this one piece of legislation.' [...] 'You all read the letter, and they're going to take score of how you all vote on this one piece of legislation,' McCrory said. 'That letter that came from CEA and AFT was very, very — I don't even want to use the word — and unfortunately, that has placed a bull's-eye on each and every single one of our backs.'" [Connecticut Post, 3/27/23]

**In Late March 2023, McCrory Delivered A 31-Uninterrupted-Minute Speech On The Senate Education Committee Floor Defending Charter Schools, Quoting Martin Luther King Jr. And Invoking George Floyd, Calling It Possibly "The Most Rousing Defense Of Charter Schools Ever Heard In Connecticut's Legislature" Per Hearst CT.** "In late March, at a meeting of the Education Committee, Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, delivered what may have been the most rousing defense of charter schools ever heard in Connecticut's legislature. McCrory, a Hartford Democrat, spoke for 31 uninterrupted minutes, quoting Martin Luther King Jr., invoking civil rights touchstones such as the killing of George Floyd and arguing that poor families in Connecticut cities need school choice for a shot at a good education. 'It is time to give our parents a choice and give our students a chance,' he concluded, drawing applause from some in the hearing room, where clapping is strongly discouraged. When McCrory was done, however, not everyone was convinced. The proposal at hand, designed to facilitate the approval of more charter schools statewide, drew support from all but one Republican on the Education Committee but left Democrats split nearly down the middle: 15 in support, 13 against." [Connecticut Post, 4/07/23]

**CEA President Kate Dias Pushed Back On McCrory's "Bulls-Eye" Characterization, Saying She Was "Surprised McCrory And Currey Had Read The Email That Way" And It Was "A Really Gross Misrepresentation Of How We Were Approaching This."** "The night before the committee was set to vote on SB 1096, Connecticut's two largest teachers unions emailed lawmakers urging them to oppose the bill, while noting that one of the groups, the Connecticut Education Association, would consider the upcoming vote as part of its legislative scorecard. The letter rankled some members of the committee, including McCrory, who said moments before the vote that the unions' position 'has placed a bulls-eye on each and every one of our backs,' as well as fellow co-chair, Rep. Jeff Currey, D-East Hartford, who accused CEA and AFT of 'veiled threats.' Kate Dias, the CEA's president, said she was surprised McCrory and Currey had read the email that way and that the group did not intend it how legislators seemed to have taken it. 'I did not appreciate some of the sentiment that we are putting bulls-eyes on people,' Dias said. 'That's a really gross misrepresentation of how we were approaching this.'" [Connecticut Post, 4/07/23]

**In April 2023, McCrory Was Among Four Democrats Who Sided With 16 Republicans In A 33-20 Appropriations Vote AGAINST Putting Funding For The Long-Stalled Danbury Charter School Into Connecticut's \$50.9 Billion Budget. McCrory Said: "It Might Not Be Next Year, But You're Going To Have A School."** "When the committee finally reconvened, an hour-long debate ensued and in the vote, four Democrats led by Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, co-chairman of the Education Committee, sided with the 16 Republicans on the committee in the final 33-20 vote against the proposal. 'It might not be next year, but you're going to have a school,' said McCrory, a school administrator. 'If you look at the history of education in this state, especially how it pertains to poor people, Black people, people who speak a second language, brown people, it's embarrassing,' McCrory said. 'This amendment, it's probably not going to pass. I want to help the kids in Bridgeport. I want to help the kids in Bristol. I want to help the kids in New London. I want to help all the kids who are failing in traditional schools that we have had the data on for the last 35 years. If we're not doing what's best for Danbury, we're not doing what's best for the state.'" [Connecticut Post, 4/19/23]

**On June 2, 2023, In Senate Floor Closing Remarks On An Education Bill, McCrory Disparaged The Hartford-Area Public Schools Many Of His Constituents Attend, Saying The State Forces Black And Brown Children To Attend "Schools That I Won't Put My Child In, That You Won't Put Your Child In."** "Unfortunately in this state, We have not provided opportunities for far too long, for children who are black, who are brown, who are poor, who don't have options, and we have prevented them. Prevented them institutionally, politically, you name it, we have required them to attend schools that I won't put my child in, that you won't put your child in, but we make them go there." [Education Bill Testimony, 6/2/23]

**In June 2023, Connecticut's Final Budget Left Out Two Of Four Approved Charter Schools (Danbury And Middletown), With The State NAACP Calling It A "Racist," "Back-Door," And "11th Hour" Effort To Limit Educational Options For Black And Brown Children.** "A proposed charter school in Middletown will join Danbury in its wait to be funded. Capital Preparatory Middletown Charter School is the second charter school to be left out of the final budget this session, despite receiving initial approval in an earlier version of the budget signed off by the Appropriations

Committee in April. Both the statewide NAACP and its Middlesex County chapter called the decision a 'racist,' 'back-door' and '11th hour' effort to limit educational options for Black and brown children and their families. 'Despite doing everything possible, the right way, we had meetings with legislators who could never give us a 'why' [the school isn't being funded],' said Anita Ford Saunders, the president of the Middlesex County NAACP, who later added that the school was blocked by Sen. Matt Lesser and Sen. Jan Hochadel, two lawmakers who represent Middletown. 'Sometimes you really have to think it's not really about the school, it's about Black and brown people having an opportunity — a choice,' Ford Saunders said, referring to how about 94% of children in the state's 21 charter schools are students of color." [Connecticut Mirror, 6/08/23]

**On January 30, 2024, CT Mirror Characterized McCrory's "Fiery Support For Charter Schools" As The Direct Cause Of His Primary Challenges From AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Shellye Davis And Windsor BoE Member Ayana Taylor.** "The Senate Democratic majority's close ties to the Connecticut AFL-CIO on issues ranging from jobless benefits for strikers to universal paid sick days is about to be tested by an AFL-CIO leader's effort to unseat a Democratic senator. The target is Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, a school administrator and former public school teacher whose fiery support for charter schools last year has put him at odds with teacher unions." [CT Mirror, [1/30/24](#)]

**In A January 2024 Interview Defending His Charter Schools Stance, McCrory Said: "People Are Upset With Me, Because I Am Doing My Job. I Am Getting Attacked For Doing My Job."** "McCrory, the co-chair of the General Assembly's Education Committee, describes himself as a supporter of 'school choice,' including charter schools, calling them a welcome option for parents of students in struggling schools. 'I'm about holding people accountable, and I'm about change and doing what's best for those who can't do for themselves,' McCrory said in a recent interview. 'People are upset with me, because I am doing my job. I am getting attacked for doing my job.'" [CT Mirror, [1/30/24](#)]

## 2023 BILL

**McCrory, As Senate Chair Of The Education Committee, Made The Motion And Voted Yes In Both The Education And Appropriations Committees To Advance SB 1096, A Bill To Streamline The Charter School Approval Process And Create A Dedicated Funding Account For New Charters.** McCrory voted in favor of the Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference of SB 1096 in the Education Committee on March 24, 2023, and again as the bill cleared the Appropriations Committee on April 21, 2023. McCrory also made the motion in the Education Committee. [Connecticut General Assembly, Education Committee Vote Tally Sheet, [3/24/23](#); Appropriations Committee Vote Tally Sheet, [4/21/23](#)]

- **The Bill Allowed The State Board Of Education To Grant Full Charters Rather Than Initial Certificates Of Approval And Created A New "Charter School Approval Grant Account" Inside The General Fund To Provide Initial Funding To New Charter Schools Without Waiting For The Legislature To appropriate Funds.** "As of July 1, 2023, this bill allows SBE to grant full charters rather than initial certificates of approval. Additionally, it creates the 'charter school approval grant account' within the General Fund to give initial funding to state and local charter schools that have been granted a new charter. The bill requires SDE to provide these funds in the fiscal year immediately following the one in which the charter was granted, instead of waiting for the legislature to appropriate the funds." [OLR Bill Analysis, sSB 1096, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **McCrory Is A Vice Principal At The Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) And Has Been An Educator For More Than 20 Years; CEA Has Historically Opposed Expanding Charter School Authority In Connecticut.** According to McCrory's official Senate Democrats biography: "A vice principal for the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC), Doug has been an educator for over 20 years, beginning as a teacher at Sarah J. Rawson Elementary School and also serving as vice principal at Lewis Fox Middle School." [Connecticut Senate Democrats, Doug McCrory Bio, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **Before The Education Committee Vote, The Connecticut Education Association And AFT-CT Sent Members An Email Stating SB 1096 Was "One Of The Bills CEA Will Be Scoring As Part Of Our 2023-24 Legislative Report Card" And Calling The Bill "An Abdication Of Legislative Control Over Tens Of Millions Of Dollars For Public Education." McCrory, As Education Committee Co-Chair, Pushed Back Publicly On The Unions, Calling The Email A Veiled Threat That Placed "A Bull's-Eye On Each And Every Single One Of Our Backs."** "This is one of the bills CEA will be scoring as part of our 2023-24 legislative report card. [...] This bill would be an abdication of legislative control over tens of millions of dollars for public education, setting a bad precedent for public school funding in Connecticut. [...] Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, who is also a co-chair on the committee, said in 19 years of serving as a state legislator, he had never received an email like that. 'You all read the letter, and they're going to take score of how you all vote on this one piece of legislation,' McCrory said. 'That letter that came from CEA and AFT was very, very — I don't even want to use the word — and

unfortunately, that has placed a bull's-eye on each and every single one of our backs." [Jessika Harkay, "Bill would take CT legislature out of charter school approval process," CT Mirror, [3/24/23](#)]

- **McCrary, A Vice Principal At The Capitol Region Education Council With More Than 20 Years In Education, Justified His Pro-Charter Position In Equity Terms, Arguing That "Largely Black And Brown Children And Families" In Underserved Communities "Want Another Option" And That "It's Time For Us In This State To Give Our Parents A Choice And Give These Children A Chance."** "Similar to Chaleski, many lawmakers voiced their experiences with charter schools, including emotional testimony from McCrary, who recalled his time as a teacher in Hartford and how parents in the late 1990s were begging for other educational options beyond traditional public schools. Residents of color across the state continue to demand more school choices, McCrary said. 'These communities ... who are underserved, marginalized, underrepresented and under-resourced ... these [communities are] largely Black and brown children and families, and they're poor, and they want another option,' McCrary said. 'It's time for us in this state to give our parents a choice and give these children a chance.'" [Jessika Harkay, CT Mirror, [3/24/23](#)]

*NOTE: The SB 1096 committee vote split party lines but ultimately passed; the bill did not become law that session.*

## 2022 BILL

**McCrary, As Senate Chair Of The Education Committee, Made The Motion And Voted Yes In The Education And Appropriations Committees To Advance SB 229, A Bill To Streamline The Charter School Approval Process And Create A Dedicated Funding Account For New Charters.** McCrary voted in favor of the Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference of SB 229 in the Education Committee on March 25, 2022. The bill then cleared the Appropriations Committee on April 7, 2022, with McCrary voting yes. McCrary also made the motion in the Education Committee. [Connecticut General Assembly, Education Committee Vote Tally Sheet, [3/25/22](#); Appropriations Committee Vote Tally Sheet, [4/7/22](#)]

- **The Bill Allowed The State Board Of Education To Grant Full Charters Rather Than Initial Certificates Of Approval And Created A New General Fund Account To Provide Initial Funding To New Charter Schools Without Waiting For Legislative Appropriation.** "As of July 1, 2022, the bill allows SBE to grant full charters rather than initial certificates of approval. Additionally, it creates the 'charter school approval grant account' within the General Fund to give initial funding to state and local charter schools that have been granted a new charter in the fiscal year immediately following the one in which the charter was granted instead of waiting for the legislature to appropriate the funds. Additionally, the bill prohibits SBE from approving more than two new state charter schools per fiscal year beginning in FY 23." [OLR Bill Analysis, sSB 229, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

*NOTE: SB 229 cleared the Education and Appropriations Committees in 2022 but did not pass the legislature that session. The same legislation was reintroduced as SB 1096 in 2023.*

## CLASSROOM SAFETY

**McCrary Voted Against The Veto Override Of SB 453, The Classroom Safety And Disruptive Behavior Bill, In June 2018; The Override Failed In The Senate.** McCrary cast a no vote on Senate repassage of SB 453, the veto override attempt. The override required two-thirds of senators voting (24 votes); the override failed 14-17 with McCrary among the 17 no votes. McCrary had earlier voted yes on initial Senate passage on May 4, 2018. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 396, [6/25/18](#)]

- **SB 453 Required Local And Regional Boards Of Education To Address "Daily Classroom Safety" In Their Safe School Climate Plans, Annually Report Classroom Safety Violations To The State Department Of Education, And Allowed Teachers To Refer Out Students Who Committed Such Violations.** "This bill requires local and regional boards of education, as well as the State Department of Education (SDE), to address daily classroom safety in a manner similar to how they must address bullying and teen dating violence under current law. Under the bill, 'daily classroom safety' means a classroom environment in which students and school employees are not physically injured by other students, school employees, or parents; or exposed to physical injury. [...] (3) allows teachers to refer out of their classroom students who commit daily classroom safety violations and sets standards for the student's return." [OLR Bill Analysis, sSB 453 (File 480, as amended by Senate "A"), accessed [5/9/26](#)]

- **Gov. Dannel P. Malloy Vetoed SB 453 On Racial Equity Grounds, Stating The Bill Created "Too Great A Risk That Students Of Color And Those With Disabilities Will Be Disproportionately Affected By Its New Removal Powers" And Ran Counter To Efforts "To Cut Off The School-To-Prison Pipeline." McCrory's No Vote On The Override Effectively Sustained Malloy's Veto.** "Governor Malloy said in his veto message: 'As written, this bill creates too great a risk that students of color and those with disabilities will be disproportionately affected by its new removal powers.' He stated it 'runs counter to the ongoing efforts of Connecticut's dedicated educators and my administration to reduce exclusion from the classroom and to cut off the school-to-prison pipeline.'" [Connecticut Public Radio (WNPR), "Connecticut Senate Fails To Override Malloy's Veto Of Classroom Safety Bill," [6/25/18](#)]

## EARLY CHILDHOOD/PRE-K

**In February 2022, McCrory - Education Committee Co-Chair - Said Connecticut Needed To "Increase The Pay" For Child-Care Workers (Earning Less Than \$12/Hour) And Backed Universal Pre-K For The 33 "Alliance Districts" Serving The State's Lowest-Income Students.** "We have to increase the pay, to get a pay scale for people who work in that industry with our young people,' said Sen. Doug McCrory of Hartford, co-chair of the legislature's Education Committee. Connecticut has already distributed \$120 million in American Rescue Plan funding to child-care providers, but leaders say more is needed. [...] McCrory said the Education Committee is considering universal pre-K this year for CAPSS Alliance Districts - 33 districts that serve the bulk of Connecticut's students of color, low-income students and English-learner students. 'You see kids coming in without pre-K supports, way behind kindergarten,' McCrory said. 'They're so far behind that the opportunity gap begins right there at 5 years old ... I think [pre-K in Alliance districts] is a great opportunity to try to level the playing field.'" [Hartford Courant, 2/16/22]

**In April 2022, McCrory Helped Pass Senate Bill 1 (33-2) Dedicating \$70 Million To Raise Salaries For Childcare Workers And \$10 Million For School-Based Health Center Grants. McCrory Said: "We Have A Major, Major Issue When It Comes To Early Childhood Education. We Are Losing Teachers Faster Than We Can Replace Them... We Are Not Paying Them Well."** "Sen. Doug McCrory, a Hartford Democrat who co-chairs the Education Committee, said the state's child care industry had suffered throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. 'This provides immediate relief in the way of wages and other urgent needs,' McCrory said. 'We have a major, major issue when it comes to early childhood education. We are losing teachers faster than we can replace them and one of the reasons why we are losing teachers is the fact that we are not paying them well.' Among other things, the bill dedicates \$70 million to increase the salaries of child care workers and early education professionals. It increases state funding to child development centers to raise the available spaces for infants and toddlers from around 1,500 to 2,800. The bill sets aside \$10 million for grants to expand services at school-based health centers. It makes \$1 million in scholarships available to help recruit more minority teachers." [CT News Junkie, 4/28/22]

**At The June 2022 Bill Signing For Connecticut's \$100 Million Children's Mental Health Package, McCrory Said "It Was The Easiest Piece Of Legislation That I Ever Passed With This Amount Of Money. With This Amount Of Money, I've Never Seen This Before But It's A Good Thing We Got It Done."** "On Wednesday, Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, said it was heartening to see lawmakers working together to assist parents and children who experienced increased trauma during the pandemic. 'Thank you Connecticut for listening to the concerns of parents and children who don't have the voice like we do. But I think all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle understood that and it was the easiest piece of legislation that I ever passed with this amount of money,' McCrory said. 'With this amount of money, I've never seen this before but it's a good thing we got it done.'" [CT News Junkie, 6/02/22]

**In March 2025, McCrory's Education Committee Approved A Bill Using \$300 Million In Anticipated Connecticut Surplus To Create An Endowment For Supplemental Early Childhood Programming, Funded Through Interest Off The \$300 Million. Republicans Objected That It Diverted Surplus From Pension Pay-Down.** "The legislative Education Committee on Monday approved a bill that would use about \$300 million in the anticipated budgetary surplus to create a fund for supplemental early childhood programming. A top priority of Senate Democrats, the bill heads next to the Senate floor. State Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, co-chairman of the committee, said that while the bill is not completely drafted, it expresses the majority's priorities to prepare kids for school and support families at a time of high day care costs. 'These are dollars that may be availability after we pay off our pension obligations and things of that magnitude,' McCrory told the Democrat-dominated committee of the plans for three- and four-year-olds. 'As a state, we're making it a priority. We're saying that early childhood education is very important and we want to make sure we fund it so all of our children throughout the state of Connecticut have access to early childhood education. We haven't done this before. We think it's not just a policy change but an investment in our future.' He said that potential providers would include private companies, public schools and home care professionals. The bill envisions for employers to take up one-third of the cost, the families would pay one-third, up to 7 percent of their income and the state would pay for a third.

McCrary said that interest off the \$300 million fund would support the program through interest payments." [Connecticut Post, 3/25/25]

## HIGHER EDUCATION

**In February 2009, McCrary Sponsored A Bill That Would Allow Connecticut Municipalities To Issue Bonds To Create College Scholarship Funds For Local Residents - A Proposal That Had Failed In The State Senate The Year Before.** "A proposal by a state legislator would allow municipalities to issue bonds to create a scholarship fund for college-bound residents. But some members of the Higher Education Committee are wary about whether increasing municipal debt is the best way to help high school graduates further their education. The bill, which failed in the state Senate last year, is sponsored by state Rep. Douglas McCrary, D-Hartford, and has received support from the chancellor of the Connecticut State University System, the mayor of Hartford and others. 'Everyone agrees on the important role higher education plays in future success, yet thousands of aspiring students cannot afford to go to college,' McCrary, a vice principal at Bulkeley High School in Hartford, said in a statement. 'Our system is set up where each town provides educational opportunity through high school, so why not give towns a tool to help kids in their community reach their ultimate potential?' McCrary said scholarships from the bond-financed pool could be based on economic need and merit, and recipients could be required to live or work in their hometown after college or to perform volunteer community service." [New Haven Register, 2/13/09]

- **Connecticut State Sen. Dan Debicella, R-Shelton, And State Rep. Patricia Dillon, D-New Haven, Both Raised Concerns About McCrary's 2009 Municipal Scholarship Bond Bill, With Dillon Saying "Bonding For Operating Money In General Is Not A Good Idea... Because You're Incurring Long-Term Costs For A Short-Term Gain."** "State Sen. Dan Debicella, R-Shelton, said he believes the state and federal governments are better equipped to provide scholarship money and that two state programs offer college assistance: Connecticut Aid for Public College Students and the Connecticut Independent College Student Grant. 'You just run into a situation where municipalities are bonding significant amounts for higher education and destabilizing their finances for something that is already being done by the state and federal governments,' Debicella said. State Rep. Patricia Dillon, D-New Haven, also said she was concerned about the bill's financial implications. 'Frankly, bonding for operating money in general is not a good idea ... because you're incurring long-term costs for a short-term gain.' She acknowledged, though, 'the people who support the bill are genuinely concerned about the ability of families to support higher education.'" [New Haven Register, 2/13/09]

## PARENT TRIGGER

**In March 2010, McCrary Helped Introduce A 10-Point Plan With The Black And Puerto Rican Caucus To Close The Achievement Gap And Backed The "Parent Trigger" Provision That Would Let 51 Percent Of Parents At A Failing School Petition For Drastic Changes.** "A package of education reforms, including the so-called parent trigger provision, was voted out of committee and sent to the General Assembly for debate Wednesday, but it faces daunting opposition on several fronts. Among the opposing forces: teacher unions, members of the legislature's education committee who say they won't vote for it, and competing legislation that the committee's co-chairmen believe would be more palatable to lawmakers. The parent trigger is just one of several measures in the reform bill designed to close the state's achievement gap between poor students and their wealthier counterparts, but much of the committee's debate has centered on it. The parent trigger allows 51 percent or more of the parents whose children attend a school that has failed to make adequate yearly progress for three consecutive years under the federal No Child Left Behind law to petition for drastic changes at the school. Those changes could range from replacing teachers or administrators to closing the school. [...] State Rep. Douglas McCrary, D-Hartford, who joined other members of the legislature's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus to introduce a 10-point plan to close the achievement gap, told the committee that parents have asked for a meaningful role. They're tired of being told to attend parent-teacher organization meetings, or to call the school's principal. 'They asked you to give them a seat at the table of change,' McCrary said. McCrary was blunt in his assessment of the opposition to the measure, saying that some fellow committee members appeared willing to compromise their integrity and principles by giving in to union pressure." [Hartford Courant, 3/25/10]

- **After An August 2011 American Federation Of Teachers PowerPoint Bragged About "Diffusing" Connecticut's Parent Trigger Bill, McCrary - A Member Of The Education Committee - Said The Revelations Showed "Even Though They Did All That, We Still Got Something Good For Our Kids" And Suggested It Could "Come Back To Haunt The Teachers Union."** "Lawmakers and parent advocates who played a crucial role in the passage last year of parent empowerment legislation reacted with outrage and concern Thursday to a PowerPoint presentation by a national teachers union. The American Federation of Teachers presentation, 'How Connecticut Diffused The Parent Trigger,' outlined how the union pressured state

legislators to kill the bill, dragged the Connecticut Education Association 'along kicking and screaming' to a compromise, and ultimately 'stopped the parent trigger and turned it into a vehicle for collaborative success.' [...] State Rep. Doug McCrory, a member of the legislature's education committee, said Thursday that the revelations contained in the presentation have a silver lining. 'It shows that even though they did all that, we still got something good for our kids,' McCrory said. McCrory said this could come back to haunt the teachers union when it lobbies for future legislation, but Bartlett sees it differently. 'The message to legislators is, 'Cross us and we'll take you out,' he said. 'Subconsciously, legislators have to think about that.'" [Hartford Courant, 8/05/11]

## RESCISSIONS

**McCrory Voted Against The Veto Override Of HB 5171, A Bill That Would Have Prohibited The Governor From Cutting Education Cost Sharing (ECS) Aid To Towns Through Rescissions Or Other Reductions; The Override Failed In The Senate.** McCrory cast a no vote on Senate repassage of HB 5171, the veto override attempt. The override required 24 yes votes and failed 19-10. McCrory had earlier voted yes on initial Senate passage on May 9, 2018, when the bill cleared the Senate 36-0 unanimously. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 399, [6/25/18](#)]

- **The Bill Would Have Prohibited The Governor From Using Rescission Authority To Reduce Education Cost Sharing Allotments And Would Have Exempted ECS Aid Grants From Authorized Reductions To Achieve General Fund Budget Savings In FY 18 And FY 19.** "This bill, overriding any general statute or special act, prohibits the governor from cutting education cost sharing (ECS) aid grants to towns by (1) using his rescission authority to reduce allotment requisitions or allotments in force or (2) making reductions in allotments in any budgeted agency to achieve General Fund budget savings. [...] The bill also revises provisions in the budget act (PA 17-2, June Special Session) to exempt ECS aid grants from authorized reductions to achieve General Fund budget savings for FYs 18 and 19." [OLR Bill Analysis, sHB 5171 (as amended by House "A"), accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **Gov. Malloy Vetoed HB 5171 In June 2018 Arguing The Bill Would Strip Future Governors Of Flexibility To Manage Mid-Year Budget Shortfalls. Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney Said The Override Was Unnecessary Because The Same ECS Protection For FY 18-19 Had Already Been Included In Section 10 Of The State Budget Malloy Had Signed.** "Leaders from both parties noted Section 10 of the new state budget enacted last month, for the fiscal year starting July 1, contains the same prohibition. [...] Senate President Pro Tem Martin M. Looney, D-New Haven, said he hadn't consulted the Senate Democratic Caucus yet but that he personally also considers a special session unnecessary. 'The legislature, any time it wants, can include that provision in future budgets,' Looney said." [Keith M. Phaneuf, "Malloy veto of education funding bill likely will stand," CT Mirror, [6/5/18](#)]

## REGIONALIZATION

**In January 2019, McCrory - Newly Co-Chairman Of The Education Committee - Said He Was "Open-Minded" On Senate President Looney's Controversial Forced School Regionalization Proposals For Connecticut Districts Under 40,000.** "Two proposals that would force school district regionalization have ignited a storm of protest in some communities, as well as debate at the State Capitol. [...] The first, proposed by Sen. President Martin Looney - Senate Bill No. 454 - would force municipalities with populations fewer than 40,000 to consolidate with another district. [...] Sen. Doug McCrory and Rep. Bobby Sanchez, co-chairmen of the Education Committee[,] [...] Sen. Doug McCrory, the other co-chairman of the Education Committee and a Democrat from Hartford, said he also needed to read the regionalization bills closely. 'I'm prepared to listen to what anyone has to say,' McCrory said. 'I'm open-minded about ideas.'" [The Bulletin (Norwich, CT), 1/30/19]

**At The March 2019 School Regionalization Hearing - Hours Into Hundreds Of Suburban Witnesses Testifying In Opposition - McCrory Said "There's A Discussion We're Not Having Here In Connecticut. It's A Discussion We Have Not Addressed Since 'Brown V. Board.'" He Said People's View Of Connecticut Education "Depends On Your Zip Code."** "It took four hours, but Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, finally reached a point in an all-day public hearing on school regionalization where he had to address 'the elephant in the room.' 'I think there's a discussion we're not having here in Connecticut. It's a discussion we have not addressed since 'Brown v. Board,' McCrory said. 'We have not come up with any solution.' [...] McCrory said Connecticut has been 'cruising for 60 years and now we have a piece of legislation that may or may not address the concerns.' He said he understands that people move to communities because the education is outstanding, 'but there's a reason why and we haven't dealt with it.' [...] McCrory said people's view of Connecticut's education system 'depends on your zip code.'" [CT News Junkie, 3/01/19]

## SCHOOL FUNDING

**In February 2023, McCrory Made Senate Bill 1 - The "Act Concerning Transparency In Education" - The Senate Democrats' "Flagship Bill," Saying Connecticut Districts Spent \$9.3 Billion On Education In Fiscal 2021 In "Overly Broad And Vague" Categories And He Wanted A "Deeper Dive" Into How Money Was Spent.** "'We want to know where our dollars are being spent,' said Education Committee Chair Sen. Doug McCrory. 'Besides teachers' salaries, there's a lot more resources that our children need to be successful. We are going to do a deeper dive and look at how we are spending that \$9 billion across the state of Connecticut.' Democrats said the legislation would ensure that funds benefit students in the classroom. 'That's a lot of money we're putting out there and [if] we're finding that the school districts are not good stewards of their dollars, then we need to have a conversation about that,' McCrory added. McCrory said that potential consequences for ill-spent funds might include a loss of state funding in future years, a requirement that districts return a portion of their funds back to the state, or a mandate that districts use funds in another sector to increase funding for higher salaries, special education, after-school programs or school-based health clinics." [Hartford Courant, 2/01/23]

**McCrory Argued Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing Formula That Distributes \$2.14 Billion Annually Was "Unnecessarily Complicated" And Should Be Streamlined Into "One Funding Mechanism" For Tech, Magnet, Public, And Charter Schools.** "McCrory also proposed to streamline funding for the state's Education Cost Sharing program. McCrory said the current grant formula, which distributes \$2.14 billion annually for the state's equalization aid program, is unnecessarily complicated. 'Whether you go to a tech school, a magnet school, a traditional public school, a charter school ... there should be one funding mechanism coming from the state of Connecticut and that's how we should move forward. ... We don't need all these multiple different grants going around doing pretty much the same thing,' McCrory said. 'Let's find out what it really costs to educate a child, and let's see how much a community can pay. And then we come in and divide the support from the state level.' McCrory said that he hopes these funding changes will improve the 'imbalance' that leaves graduates of some districts better-prepared for adulthood than others." [Hartford Courant, 2/01/23]

**On March 4, 2026, McCrory Backed Senate Bill 7 To Raise Connecticut's Education Cost Sharing "Foundation Grant" From \$11,525 To \$15,500 By 2030 - A 35% Increase Costing An Additional \$618 Million Annually By 2030. McCrory Pointed To The State's \$4 Billion Rainy Day Fund: "If The State Doesn't Step Up, It Falls On Local Taxpayers."** "Senate Bill 7 would raise the 'foundation grant' in the state's Education Cost Sharing formula the per-student baseline used to calculate how much aid flows to every school district from \$11,525 today to \$15,500 by 2030, a 35% increase. After that, the grant would be indexed to economic conditions, adjusting automatically rather than waiting on the legislature to act. The phased increases would add \$58 million in new state education aid in fiscal year 2027, scaling to \$233 million in 2028, \$422 million in 2029 and roughly \$618 million annually by 2030. The proposal faces a significant obstacle: Gov. Ned Lamont's budget does not include an increase to the foundation grant, setting up a likely fight during budget negotiations later this session. [...] Education Committee Co-Chair Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, who spent his career as an educator before entering politics, pointed to communities in his region Hartford, Bloomfield and Windsor as examples of underfunded districts that would see significant new resources under the bill. 'Each community has fixed costs,' he said. 'If the state doesn't step up, it falls on local taxpayers.' McCrory also noted that the state's Budget Reserve Fund, commonly called the Rainy Day Fund, exceeds \$4 billion. That suggests the state has the fiscal capacity to act even in an uncertain budget environment, he said." [CT News Junkie, 3/04/26]

## TEACHER DIVERSITY

**On March 31, 2021, McCrory Tweeted That "As A Black Man And Educator," He Knew "First-Hand The Impact A Teacher Of Color Can Have On All Students."** "As a Black man and educator, I know first-hand the impact a teacher of color can have on all students, especially students of color, in the classroom. Connecticut's students need to have teachers throughout their educational journey that reflect the diversity of our state." [@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, 3/31/21]

**In May 2021, The Connecticut State Senate Passed McCrory's Teacher Diversity Bill 35-1 (With Only Sen. Rob Sampson Opposed), Establishing A Minority Candidate Residency Year Program And Requiring The State's 33 Lowest-Performing "Alliance Districts" To Partner With A Residency Operator. The Bill Used 10% Of Each Alliance District's Increase In Alliance Aid To Fund The Program.** "With only one vote against it, the state Senate approved a bill designed to increase the recruitment and retention of teachers of color in Connecticut. The state has hired more than 1,900 educators of color over the past five years, but 90% of Connecticut educators are white, according to state Department of Education data. In contrast, about 45% of students are people of color. A key goal of the bill is to create pathways for individuals who already work within schools as paraprofessionals, adjuncts or in other positions to become teachers, state Sen. Douglas McCrory, a Hartford Democrat who co-chairs the state legislature's education

committee, said Thursday evening on the Senate Floor. 'These are individuals who are known within the school district, who demonstrate a great deal of cultural competency in the field of education,' he said. 'Studies have shown that all students ... learn better when they're taught by a diverse teaching population, and that's something we do not have in the state of Connecticut.' [...] Connecticut's 33 lowest-performing school districts, called Alliance Districts, would be required to partner with a residency program operator to enroll minority candidates and place them in the district for 10 months, according to an analysis by the Office of Legislative Research. Program operators would either be regional educational service centers or private, nonprofit certification programs. To cover costs, the state Department of Education would withhold from each Alliance District 10% of any increase in Alliance aid and use the funds to pay for the program." [Hartford Courant, 5/22/21]

**On May 24, 2021, McCrory Tweeted That "Studies Have Shown That All Students Learn Better When They're Taught By A Diverse Teaching Population" In Promoting SB 1034.** "Studies have shown that all students learn better when they're taught by a diverse teaching population, and that's something we do not have in CT. Senate Bill 1034 will increase minority teacher recruitment and retention efforts." [@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, [5/24/21](#)]

**On November 14, 2021, McCrory Tweeted That The Teacher Residency Program Was "Diversifying CT's Teacher Pop., While Training People For This Good-Paying, Transformative Career."** "Children have better educational outcomes when served by a diverse teaching population. With the Teacher Residency Program, we're diversifying CT's teacher pop., while training people for this good-paying, transformative career." [@SenMcCrory Twitter/X, [11/14/21](#)]

**In March 2022, McCrory Argued The Connecticut Teacher Certification Standardized Testing Requirement Created By The 1986 Educational Enhancement Act Was The "Biggest Barrier" To Recruiting Teachers Of Color: "Taking A Test Is No Indication Of How Well You Can Teach."** "The issue goes back decades, said Sen. Doug McCrory, a Hartford Democrat and longtime educator. But it wasn't always this way. In the Jim Crow era, many Black Americans faced limited professional options. 'At that time in society, the only options for most Black people would be a preacher, teacher or go into entrepreneurship,' McCrory said. But after schools integrated beginning in 1954, many Black teachers lost their jobs, with some school administrators hesitant to put them in charge of white students or faculty. McCrory said Connecticut, as well as other Northeastern states, spent the 1960s and 1970s recruiting teachers of color in the South and candidates at historically Black colleges and universities - including his aunt, who was recruited to teach in New Britain. [...] The act raised teacher salaries to among the highest in the country, where they remain today, but also added new certification and evaluation standards. The standards included a standardized test requirement, which McCrory says dissuades some people of color from pursuing certification. 'The problem is, taking a test is no indication of how well you can teach,' McCrory said. 'There's no relationship connecting someone's ability to take a standardized test and their ability to teach in the classroom, but that's the barrier we created.' [...] McCrory said the certification process is the 'biggest [barrier]' to recruiting more teachers of color, and is also pushing for the state to expand reciprocity with other states to make it easier for certified teachers to move to Connecticut." [Hartford Courant, 3/13/22]

**In January 2023, McCrory Said Connecticut Needed To Diversify Its Teaching Workforce: "We Need Some More Black Teachers, We Need Some More Brown Teachers, We Need Some Yellow Teachers, Because In Connecticut 91 Percent Of The Teachers Are White."** "State Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, the co-chairman of the legislative Education Committee, said that recruiting more minority teachers is a key to helping children in urban classrooms. 'All the research shows that our children learn better when they are taught by a diverse teaching population,' McCrory said. 'We need some more Black teachers, we need some more brown teachers, we need some yellow teachers, because in Connecticut 91 percent of the teachers are white. That's great, because we need to retain them, but we also need to diversify.' [...] 'We have a plan and we have resources and we're going to execute this year on recruiting and retaining a diverse teaching population,' said McCrory, a 33-year educator. 'No longer can we sit back and allow our children not to be prepared for the 21st Century.'" [Connecticut Post, 1/31/23]

**In March 2024, McCrory Held A News Conference Promoting The Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program, Funded At \$4 Million The Prior Year (Awarding 29 Of 300+ Applicants Up To \$10,000 Annually). McCrory Said He Wanted To Increase The Funding To \$6 Million.** "Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, held a news conference Monday at the Legislative Office Building to discuss the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship Program, which is designed to encourage more people of color to pursue careers in education by providing financial support for their studies. 'This program represents an investment in a future where Connecticut students from all backgrounds can see themselves reflected in their teachers,' McCrory said. 'Scholarships like this are a critical step in addressing systemic barriers in education and ensuring that the teaching profession is accessible and appealing to folks from all walks of life.' The Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship is available for diverse students who graduated from a public high school in a priority school district. Students must be enrolled in an approved educator preparation program in Connecticut, and can earn up to \$10,000 annually for undergraduate or graduate programs. Students who receive the scholarship commit to working in a Connecticut school district for three years. [...] Last year, the state legislature funded the scholarship with \$4

million. Money was awarded to 29 students from an applicant pool of over 300. To respond to the high demand for the program, McCrory said he would like to increase funding to \$6 million this session." [CT News Junkie, 3/11/24]

**On August 2, 2024, McCrory Claimed Credit For Increasing Connecticut's Number Of Black And Brown Educators By 230 Over Three Years — "More Than That Done In The Last 20 Years."** "We need more black and brown educators. And I've done that over the last three years. I increased the number of black and brown Education State of Connecticut by 230 that's more than that done in the last 20 years. Because I understand that one of the last thing I want to mention in the area is education is we have created a bill last called the right to be the sadness in this in this state is less than 45% of the students in our entire state can read on grade level by the age of by grade grade three." [GHAA Forum 2, 8/2/24]

## MISCELLANEOUS

**In June 2009, McCrory Helped Lead Passage Of A Bill Raising The Connecticut School Dropout Age From 16 To 17, Which Passed The State House 130-16. McCrory Said "Dropping Out At 16 Is Simply Not An Adequate Standard, And Having A Law On The Books That Allows Kids To Do That Sends A Wrong Message."**

"Representative Backs Student Dropout Bill: State Representative Douglas McCrory, who represents Hartford in the Connecticut General Assembly, helped lead passage of a bill in the House of Representatives that raises the age students are allowed to drop out of school from 16 to 17. McCrory backed the change in state law because he believes dropping out at 16 is not sufficient for surviving in today's economy. In particular, he finds the disproportionate number of dropouts in the African American, Latino and urban communities as a principle reason for the state's swollen achievement gap. 'Dropping out at 16 is simply not an adequate standard, and having a law on the books that allows kids to do that sends a wrong message,' said McCrory, a vice-principal in the Hartford school system and member of the Legislature's Higher Education Committee. 'If we are going to advance the needs of generations coming after us, then this is one important change we can make that will have a positive impact.' The proposed change was approved by a vote of 130-16 in the House. Students who have reached the age of 17 and wish to withdraw will need the permission of a parent or guardian. If the legislation becomes law, it will take effect on July 1, 2010." [Hartford Courant, 6/07/09]

**In March 2021 - As Education Committee Senate Chair - McCrory Pushed For Statewide Online Learning Standards Through The State Department Of Education, Saying "Virtual Learning Is Here To Stay" But Should Not Be Used "In Place Of What We Know Really Works For Our Children, Which Is In-Person Learning."** "Sen. Doug McCrory, a Hartford Democrat and Senate chair of the committee, said: 'We know that virtual learning is here to stay. Whether we like it or not, it's going to be a part of education as we move forward. We just want to make sure we get in front of it, and we have guidelines in place for all districts to be prepared and have it available for our children.' McCrory added that it was important to make sure schools would not use remote learning 'in place of what we know what really works for our children, which is in-person learning.' [...] McCrory said part of the guidelines would dictate when schools should use online-only learning. 'We're not leaving it up to individual school districts, we're not leaving it up to individual schools,' he said. '[The state Department of Education] will set the guidelines, and we will follow accordingly,' he said." [Hartford Courant, 3/30/21]

**In February 2024, McCrory Said He Was Open To Modifying The Kindergarten Cutoff Bill That Had Sparked Backlash, Telling The Hearst CT Network: "I Think We Got Ahead Of Myself A Little Bit With That."** "Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, who co-chairs the legislature's Education Committee, said he is open to reexamining the issue during the new session. 'I think we got ahead of myself a little bit with that,' McCrory said. 'I think we have to have the discussion of what we might do to modify that language because a lot of parents were not prepared for that move, and it's going to create a lot of dissension if we don't provide more early childhood slots for that age group.'" [Connecticut Post, 2/01/24]

**In February 2026, McCrory - As Senate Education Committee Co-Chair - Joined Gov. Lamont In Pushing A Bell-To-Bell Statewide Cellphone Ban In Connecticut Public Schools. The Education Committee Voted 29-9 On The First Day Of Session To Take Up The Idea.** "Although they may differ on what exactly that ban would look like, both Gov. Ned Lamont and leaders of the legislature's Education Committee say they are fighting to go as far as a statewide, bell-to-bell cellphone ban — bringing it to the forefront of education conversations this year. [...] 'Connecticut was a leader in getting these phones out of the classroom, let's go one step further: no phones bell-to-bell in any of our schools,' Lamont said in his State of the State speech on the opening day of the legislative session on Wednesday. [...] She [Rep. Jennifer Leeper] and state Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, who both chair the Education Committee, said they were making a statewide cellphone ban a priority this legislative session. [...] Having both Leeper and McCrory on board with a full ban helps the case as well. On the first day of the session, the Education Committee voted 29-9 to take up the idea of phone-free schools this legislative session." [Connecticut Post, 2/08/26]

## ENVIRONMENT

### DEEP CONSENT ORDERS

**In 2017 McCrory Voted In The Joint Judiciary Committee For HB 7134, A Bill That Restricted The DEEP Commissioner's Authority To Modify Or Revoke Consent Orders With Polluters — A Predecessor To The Better-Known 2018 SB 347 Already In The Book.** McCrory voted yes on HB 7134 in the joint Judiciary Committee in 2017. The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters said HB 7134 would "stop DEEP from changing or withdrawing a consent order against a specific polluter who had violated environmental laws" — the same posture later renewed in 2018 SB 347. [Connecticut General Assembly, Joint Judiciary Committee, HB 7134 (2017)]

**McCrory Voted In The Judiciary Committee To Advance SB 347, A Bill That Restricted The DEEP Commissioner's Authority To Modify Or Revoke Consent Orders With Polluters.** McCrory cast a yes vote in the Judiciary Committee on the Joint Favorable Substitute of SB 347, "An Act Concerning Consent Orders Entered Into By The Commissioner Of Energy And Environmental Protection," on April 24, 2018. [Connecticut General Assembly, Judiciary Committee Vote Tally Sheet, [4/24/18](#)]

- **The Bill Prohibited The DEEP Commissioner From Modifying Or Revoking A Consent Order Unless The Other Party Failed To Disclose Material Information Or Materially Breached The Order, And Allowed The Commissioner Or A Party To Seek Declaratory And Injunctive Relief In Superior Court.** "This bill prohibits the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) commissioner from modifying or revoking a consent order unless the other party to the order fails to disclose material information or there is a material breach of the order. [...] The bill also allows the commissioner or a party to a consent order to seek declaratory and injunctive relief from Superior Court to resolve a dispute concerning the consent order's terms and conditions, and the parties' compliance with it." [OLR Bill Analysis, sSB 347, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **The Connecticut League Of Conservation Voters Identified SB 347 As The Third Consecutive Year Republican-Aligned Lawmakers Tried To Strip DEEP Of "An Important Enforcement Tool" By Preventing The Department From Modifying Or Revoking Consent Orders Against Polluters Refusing To Cooperate, Calling It An Effort To "Circumvent Environmental Protection Laws For The Benefit Of One Company."** "For the third consecutive year, a bill was raised to strip DEEP of an important enforcement tool by preventing the department from modifying or revoking a 'Consent Order' against a specific polluter who had violated a clean-up agreement and was still refusing to cooperate. This bill sought to circumvent environmental protection laws for the benefit of one company, but it would have changed the law statewide. SB 347 is scored twice in the Environment [Committee and the Judiciary Committee]." [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, 2018 Environmental Scorecard, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

### DIRECT ELECTRIC VEHICLE SALES

**In 2017 McCrory Voted In The Finance, Revenue And Bonding Committee Against HB 7097, A Bill That Would Have Allowed Electric Vehicle Manufacturers Such As Tesla To Sell Cars Directly To Connecticut Consumers Without Going Through A Franchised Dealer.** McCrory voted no on HB 7097 in the joint Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee in 2017. The bill, supported by the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters and consumer advocates as a measure to expand access to EVs, would have authorized the Motor Vehicles Commissioner to issue new or used car dealer licenses to vehicle manufacturers that manufactured "only electric or partial zero emission vehicles." [Connecticut General Assembly, Joint Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, HB 7097 (2017)]

- **The Connecticut League Of Conservation Voters Supported HB 7097 As An Environmental Measure Because Allowing Direct Sales By Electric Vehicle Manufacturers Like Tesla Would Expand Consumer Access To Zero-Emission Vehicles In A State Whose Franchise Law Otherwise Forced EV-Only Manufacturers To Go Through Traditional Dealers.** CTLCV identified HB 7097 as one of the year's environmental priority votes, framing direct sales as a transportation-emissions reduction measure. [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, 2017 Environmental Scorecard, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

## HUNTING

## BEAR HUNTING

### **McCrory Voted To Authorize A Bear Hunt In Connecticut, Backing Senate Passage Of SB 1523 In May 2025.**

McCrory cast a yes vote for SB 1523, "An Act Concerning The Taking Of Wildlife That Damage Crops Or Black Bear That Injure Or Kill Livestock," as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A" (LCO 8608). The bill passed the Senate 34-2; only Sens. Christine Cohen and Mae Flexer voted no. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 177, [5/15/25](#)]

- **The Bill Authorized The Governor To Direct DEEP To Permit A Bear Hunt After Finding That Bear Conflicts Posed A "Public Safety Threat."** "The amended bill, which the Senate passed and sent to the House on a 34-2 vote, allows the governor to direct the commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environment Protection (DEEP) to adopt regulations and set parameters to permit a bear hunt in the state only after he and DEEP's commissioner find that an assessment by DEEP indicates that 'bear conflicts with people, pets, and livestock in Connecticut have reached a level that poses a public safety threat.'" [CT News Junkie, [5/26/25](#)]
- **The Connecticut League Of Conservation Voters Said SB 1523 Sought To Establish A Bear Hunting Season "Under The Pretense Of Addressing Human-Bear Conflicts" And Scored The Senate Vote On Its 2025 Environmental Scorecard.** "SB 1523, which originally sought to establish a bear hunting season under the pretense of addressing human-bear conflicts. [...] DEEP's website states that preventative measures, like proper food storage, are the best way to reduce bears attracted to certain communities. This amended bill was passed by the Senate, but then further amended by the House to replace the bear hunting authority with a requirement for DEEP to prepare a bear management plan. SB 1523 was sent back to the Senate, where no further action was taken." [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, 2025 Environmental Scorecard, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **The Connecticut State Director For Humane World For Animals Said The Bill Was "Hiding Behind The Guise Of A Public Safety Need In Order To Kill Bears" And Said The Science Was Clear That Hunting Did Not Reduce Human-Bear Conflicts.** "'What they're doing this time is hiding behind the guise of a public safety need in order to kill bears and in order to enact a regulated hunting season,' [Annie Hornish, the Connecticut state director for Humane World for Animals] said. [...] 'Hunting will not do that because when hunters hunt, they're not hunting in suburban neighborhoods. They're out deep in the woods hunting bears where they live and ought to be, and that's not going to resolve the problem.'" [CT News Junkie, [5/26/25](#)]
- **CT Votes For Animals Testified That A Recreational Bear Hunt Was Unnecessary And Counterproductive, Pointing To DEEP's Existing Authority And Public Education As More Effective Tools.** "While concerns about human-bear interactions are valid, expert recommendations based on substantiated research indicates that non-lethal, preventative measures are far more effective at reducing conflicts than hunting. [...] Connecticut already has established legal provisions to address bears that pose a legitimate safety threat. Under CGS 26-3, DEEP is authorized to remove or kill a bear when necessary. [...] Given these existing legal frameworks, a recreational bear hunt is not only unnecessary but also counterproductive to effective wildlife management." [Susan Linker, Board Chair, CT Votes for Animals, Testimony to CGA Environment Committee, [3/24/25](#)]

*NOTE: SB 1523 ultimately died: the House amended the bill to strip the bear hunting authority and replace it with a DEEP management plan, but the Senate did not take up the amended version before adjournment.*

### **McCrory Voted For SB 586, A Bill That Expanded DEEP's Authority To Issue Permits For The Killing Of Nuisance Wildlife, Including Bears, At Any Time Of Day Or Night And For An Expanded Range Of Property Damage.**

McCrory cast a yes vote for SB 586, "An Act Concerning The Control Of Nuisance Wildlife." The bill failed Senate passage 11-22; McCrory was one of the 11 yes votes. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 186, [5/21/19](#)]

- **Under Existing Law, DEEP Could Issue Permits Only For Crop Damage At Night When Daylight Control Was Impractical; The Bill Expanded Permits To Cover Damage To Livestock, Poultry, Or Bees, And Authorized Killings At Any Time Of Day Or Night.** "Under current law, the commissioner may issue a permit for taking nuisance wildlife when it is shown to her satisfaction that wildlife is causing unreasonable damage to agricultural crops at night and control of the wildlife is not practicable during daylight hours. The bill instead allows her to issue such a permit when it is shown to her satisfaction that wildlife is causing unreasonable damage to agricultural crops, livestock, poultry, or bees, regardless of the time of day the damage occurs. Under the bill, the permit may allow the taking of such nuisance wildlife at any time of day or night as the commissioner deems necessary to control damage." [OLR Bill Analysis, sSB 586, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

- **The Connecticut League Of Conservation Voters Said SB 586 Was "Initially Introduced As A Straightforward Proposal To Allow Bear Hunting In Connecticut's Deep Woods" And That Connecticut's Bear Population "Is Too Small And Reproduces Too Slowly To Support A Sustained Hunt," While Hunting Bears In The Deep Woods "Does Not Address Animals That Wander Closer To Neighborhoods Where They Are Attracted To Pet Food, Bird Seed, And Garbage."** "SB 586 was initially introduced as a straightforward proposal to allow bear hunting in Connecticut's deep woods, ostensibly to control nuisance bears in our suburbs. Our bear population is too small and reproduces too slowly to support a sustained hunt. Hunting bears far from civilization also does not address animals that wander closer to neighborhoods where they are attracted to pet food, bird seed, and garbage. Advocates raised these points, and the Environment Committee revised the bill. [...] An Act Concerning the Control of Nuisance Wildlife: OPPOSE/FAILED." [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, 2019 Environmental Scorecard, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

NOTE: SB 586 failed Senate passage 11-22 on May 21, 2019.

## SUNDAY HUNTING

**McCrary Voted To End Connecticut's Century-Old Sunday Hunting Ban On Private Land In June 2025.** McCrary cast a yes vote for HB 7231, "An Act Authorizing Sunday Hunting On Private Lands," as amended. The bill passed the Senate 32-4; the only no votes were Sens. Derek Slap, Christine Cohen, Mae Flexer, and Jorge Cabrera. Gov. Lamont signed the bill into law as Public Act 25-138 on July 8, 2025. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 384, [6/4/25](#)]

- **The Bill Expanded Existing Law To Authorize Sunday Hunting On Private Land Of Any Animals Regulated By The State, Using Guns Or Other Lethal Means, As Close As 40 Yards From A Public Trail.** "Current law prohibits Sunday hunting except for bow hunting of deer on private land at least 40 yards from a public trail. HB 7231 expands that law to authorize Sunday hunting on private land of any animals regulated by the state, using guns or other allowable lethal means, also as close as 40 yards from a public" trail. [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, 2025 Environmental Scorecard, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **The Connecticut League Of Conservation Voters Opposed HB 7231 And Scored The Vote Against McCrary On Its 2025 Environmental Scorecard.** CTLCV listed HB 7231 ("Sunday Hunting On Private Lands") under "Sunday Hunting" with the position "OPPOSE" and status "PASSED." [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, 2025 Environmental Scorecard, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **Sierra Club Connecticut Opposed HB 7231 And Said Hunters Already Had Six Of Seven Days To Hunt And Should Not Be Allowed To Disrupt Park Visitors' Right To Enjoy The Outdoors On Sundays.** "The enjoyment of the outdoors can be completely negated by hearing gunfire, animals screaming in pain, and the stress of worrying you could be shot or witness the shooting of an animal. Just one day a week, we urge that those enjoying the refuge of nature - whether it be hiking, picnicking, birding or simply appreciating the outdoors - be able to do it without worrying about whether or not someone is hunting nearby. Hunters already have the right to hunt 6 out of 7 days of the week. To allow hunting on Sunday would be disregarding the right of the millions of annual park visitors to enjoy the refuge of nature." [Samantha Dynowski, State Director, Sierra Club Connecticut, Testimony to CGA Environment Committee, [3/24/25](#)]

NOTE: HB 7231 was signed into law as Public Act 25-138 on July 8, 2025, and took effect October 1, 2025.

## RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

**McCrary Voted In The Energy & Technology Committee To Advance HB 5356, A Bill That Would Have Modified The Renewable Portfolio Standard To Include All Hydropower And Nuclear Facilities As Class I Renewable Energy Sources.** McCrary cast a yes vote for the Joint Favorable Substitute of HB 5356, "An Act Concerning Modifications To The Renewable Portfolio Standard." The Energy & Technology Committee approved the bill 20-0. McCrary is a member of the committee. [Connecticut General Assembly, Energy & Technology Committee Vote Tally Sheet, [3/21/24](#)]

- **The Bill Would Have Reclassified All Hydropower And All Nuclear Facilities As Class I Renewable Energy Sources, Allowing Eversource And United Illuminating To Use Renewable Energy Certificates From Those Facilities To Meet Their RPS Requirements, And Required A Study Of Expanding The State's Natural Gas Capacity.** "This bill expands the type of projects considered Class I renewable energy sources to include certain

fuel cell, hydropower, and nuclear facilities. By reclassifying these facilities as Class I, the bill allows electric distribution companies (EDCs, i.e., Eversource and United Illuminating) and electric suppliers to use the renewable energy certificates (RECs) generated by these technologies to meet their Class I renewable portfolio standard (RPS) requirements. [...] Lastly, the bill requires the DEEP commissioner to study the state's natural gas capacity and report her findings and recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 1, 2025. The study must evaluate the state's natural gas capacity and examine ways to expand it, including any needed regulatory or legislative changes." [OLR Bill Analysis, sHB 5356, [4/9/24](#)]

- **The Connecticut League Of Conservation Voters Called HB 5356 "A Partisan Effort To Weaken Our State's Renewable Energy Programs And Expand The State's Dependence On Oil And Gas" And Scored The Energy & Technology Committee Vote.** "HB 5356 was a partisan effort to weaken our state's renewable energy programs and expand the state's dependence on oil and gas. HB 5356 was a proposal to block the Energy & Technology Committee's efforts to expand solar energy and promote renewable energy solutions in Connecticut. The bill aimed to expand natural gas infrastructure, undermining the state's commitment to renewables. It proposed modifying the definition of 'Class I renewable energy source' to include all hydropower (good and bad) and nuclear facilities, which would have used up all of the clean energy credits for other truly sustainable energy sources, like solar, geothermal, and sustainable hydropower. The bill passed out of the Energy & Technology Committee, where the final vote is scored, but was not acted upon by the House." [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, 2024 Environmental Scorecard, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **Conservation Law Foundation Opposed The Bill, Testifying That Adding Fuel Cell Power Plants To The Class I Renewable Definition Was Improper Because Most Hydrogen Used As A Feedstock For Fuel Cells Is Produced Using Fossil Fuels.** "CLF respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to H.B. 5356, An Act Concerning Modifications to the Renewable Portfolio Standard. H.B. 5356 would modify the definition of 'Class I renewable energy source' to include fuel cell power plants as defined under the U.S. Tax Code. Fuel cell power plants should not be included as Class I renewables because most hydrogen used as a feedstock for fuel cells is produced using fossil fuels and is not renewable." [Shannon Laun, Vice President - Connecticut, Conservation Law Foundation, Testimony to CGA Energy & Technology Committee, [3/7/24](#)]
- **Environment Connecticut Opposed The Bill, Saying The Section Expanding The Fuel Cell Definition Could Allow Additional Greenhouse-Gas-Emitting Generation Sources To Qualify As Class I Renewables, Inconsistent With The State's Statutory Requirement Of A Zero-Carbon Electric System By 2040.** "Environment Connecticut opposes HB 5356 in its current form. Section 1 of the bill would expand the definition of 'fuel cell' within the definition of 'Class 1 renewable energy source' in Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). This proposed change, referencing 26 USC 48(c)(1), could have the effect of allowing additional greenhouse gas-emitting generation sources to qualify for Class 1 treatment within the RPS. This proposed change is inconsistent with Connecticut's statutory requirement to achieve a fully zero-carbon electric system by 2040." [Chris Phelps, State Director, Environment Connecticut, Testimony to CGA Energy & Technology Committee, [3/7/24](#)]

*NOTE: HB 5356 cleared the Energy & Technology Committee 20-0 but was not acted on by the full House and died at the end of the 2024 session.*

## STATE LAND CONVEYANCE

**McCrary Voted To Pass SB 502, A State Land Conveyance Bill That CTLCV Opposed.** McCrary cast a yes vote for SB 502, "An Act Concerning The Conveyance Of Certain Parcels Of State Land." The bill passed the Senate 36-0 unanimously on May 9, 2018, as amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A." [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 332, [5/9/18](#)]

- **The Bill Authorized The Conveyance Of State Property In Newington, Portland, Stratford, Cheshire, And New Haven, Amended Prior Conveyances In Stratford, South Windsor, And New Milford, And Required The State Department Of Education To Grant An Easement In Groton.** "This bill: (1) authorizes conveyances of state property in the towns of Newington, Portland, Stratford, Cheshire, and New Haven; (2) amends prior conveyances of state property in Stratford, South Windsor, and New Milford; and (3) requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to grant an easement in Groton." [OLR Bill Analysis, sSB 502, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **The Connecticut League Of Conservation Voters Opposed SB 502, Saying The Bill (Now Public Act 18-154) "Once Again Contained A Variety Of Transfers Of Publicly Owned Land" And "Troubling Changes To**

**Our Existing Laws, Including Overly Broad 'Allowed Uses' For Public Property, Inadequate Compensation For Taxpayers, Deletion Of A Quitclaim Provision, And Vague Language About Municipal Referendums."**

"SB 502 — An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land: OPPOSE/PASSED. This bill (now Public Act 18-154) was the annual land conveyance legislation that once again contained a variety of transfers of publicly owned land. Additionally, it also contained troubling changes to our existing laws, including overly broad 'allowed uses' for public property, inadequate compensation for taxpayers, deletion of a quitclaim provision, and vague language about municipal referendums. While legislators responded to public testimony and made the bill somewhat clearer and cleaner than in years past, the resulting law still falls short of CTLCV's high standards for transparency and fairness." [Connecticut League of Conservation Voters, 2018 Environmental Scorecard, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

## GAMBLING

**McCrary Voted Against SB 957 In May 2017, A Bill Authorizing The Mashantucket Pequots And Mohegans To Operate An Off-Reservation Casino In East Windsor; The Bill Passed The Senate 24-12.** McCrary cast a no vote on Senate passage of SB 957 as amended by Senate Amendment "A," and on both Senate amendment votes (LCO 7686, LCO 7707). [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 168, [5/24/17](#)]

- **The Bill Authorized MMCT Venture, A Joint Company Of The Mashantucket Pequots And Mohegans, To Operate An Off-Reservation Casino In East Windsor And Required MMCT To Pay The State 25% Of Gross Gaming Revenue From Slots And Other Video Facsimile Games.** "This bill authorizes the operation of an off-reservation casino gaming facility in East Windsor, Connecticut, subject to certain conditions and regulation by the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). [...] The bill gives MMCT Venture, LLC, a company the two tribes jointly own and operate, the exclusive right to conduct authorized games at a casino gaming facility after certain conditions are met. [...] The bill requires MMCT to (1) annually contribute \$300,000 to the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling and (2) pay the state 25% of the gross gaming revenue from both the video facsimile games (e.g., slots) and all other authorized casino games (e.g., table games)." [OLR Bill Analysis, SB 957, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **The Connecticut AFL-CIO Identified McCrary's No Vote On SB 957 As One Of Three Wrong Votes On Its 2017-2018 Legislative Scorecard, Where McCrary Earned A 70% Score (7 Correct, 3 Wrong, 0 Absent). The AFL-CIO Stated A "Yes" Vote Was The Correct Vote: "This Bill Authorizes The Mohegan And Mashantucket Pequot Tribes To Jointly Establish And Operate A Casino In East Windsor."** "SB 957 AAC THE REGULATION OF GAMING AND THE AUTHORIZATION OF A CASINO GAMING FACILITY IN THE STATE. Passed Senate 24-12-0. A 'YES' vote is the correct vote. This bill authorizes the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes to jointly establish and operate a casino in East Windsor." [Connecticut AFL-CIO 2017-2018 Senate Scorecard, accessed via Internet Archive, [9/5/18](#)]

## GUNS

**In January 2014, McCrary Attended A Vigil For 4-Year-Old Shantay Drake And Her Mother Susan Therrien, Who Both Died In A Hartford Bedford Street Fire, Saying The Community Would Do Everything It Could "To Keep You Whole," And Helped Set Up A Bedford Street Fire Victims Relief Fund.** "Mayor Pedro E. Segarra also attended the vigil Thursday with Hartford state Rep. Douglas McCrary. 'As your mayor I want to thank all of you for coming together,' said Segarra. McCrary addressed the victims' family, saying that the community will do everything it can 'to keep you whole.' 'Sometimes things happen in our lives that we just don't understand,' McCrary said. [...] Another fund has been set up at the Hartford Municipal Employees Federal Credit Union, according to McCrary. Donations may be made out to the 'Bedford Street Fire Victims Relief Fund' and sent to the credit union at 443 Franklin Ave., Hartford, CT 06114." [Hartford Courant, 1/31/14]

**In December 2019, McCrary Said He Wanted To Use Connecticut's \$1.8 Billion Seven-Year Hospital Settlement To Fund A New Jersey-Style \$20 Million Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program To Address Hartford's North End Gun Violence.** "Sen. Doug McCrary, D-Hartford, said the General Assembly is about to vote on a settlement Wednesday that locks in payments from the state to the hospitals for the next seven years. The settlement requires the state to pay Connecticut's hospitals \$1.8 billion over seven years. McCrary said he would like to see what New Jersey passed and whether he can include similar language in legislation the General Assembly will vote on Wednesday." [CT News Junkie, 12/17/19]

**In February 2020, McCrory - Disclosing He Was A Gun Owner - Backed A 35% Excise Tax On Ammunition That Could Raise \$7 Million A Year For Urban Anti-Violence Programs. He Said: "It's Easier To Get A Handgun Than A Loaf Of Bread Or Lettuce" In Hartford.** "Sen. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, said even though he's a gun owner he is a strong supporter of the bill, specifically for the reason that its intent is to funnel back money into the cities that have the highest rate of gun violence. 'We have to get ahead of this early to provide programs,' McCrory said. 'We are not trying to take guns out of anybody's hands but I think it is extremely important,' to have strong gun laws. Currently, 'it's easier to get a handgun than a loaf of bread or lettuce' in Hartford, McCrory said." [CT News Junkie, 2/13/20]

**On August 3, 2020, In His Police Accountability Floor Speech, McCrory Praised Connecticut For Becoming "A Leader In This Country On Holding Gun Owners Accountable" After Sandy Hook — Even Though He Personally Voted NO On That 2013 SAFE Act.** "I would like the state of Connecticut to be leaders, just like we led this country after the Sandy Hook massacre. We didn't wait. We didn't say these bills have to go through all these committees. We didn't do that. We acted because we knew it was important, and we became a leader in this country or holding gun owners accountable. That's what we did. It was emergency, and just like we're here today in the midst of a pandemic, we are in a state of emergency, and we must act clearly." [Police Accountability Speech, 8/3/20]

## HARTFORD VIOLENCE IN 2006

**In June 2006 - Following A Spike In Hartford Shootings - McCrory And Other Hartford Lawmakers Called For An "Immediate Cease-Fire" Among Feuding Neighborhood Groups, And McCrory Said Lawmakers Were "Going To Come To The Young People And Ask Them What Do They Think Is Needed To Prevent More Bloodshed."**

"Members of Hartford's legislative delegation will hold two press conferences today to discuss ways to stem the violence on city streets, including a call for an immediate ``cease-fire" among feuding neighborhood groups. But the lawmakers acknowledge that they don't have all the answers, so they are turning to the city's youth for solutions. ``We're going to come to the young people and ask them what do they think is needed to prevent more bloodshed in their community," state Rep. Douglas McCrory said Sunday. McCrory, along with Rep. Kenneth P. Green, Rep. Marie Lopez Kirkley-Bey and Sen. Eric D. Coleman, will hold two press conferences in the North End of Hartford. [...] McCrory said a ``cease-fire" is an important first step. ``Before we can do anything, we've got to stop the shooting; we've got to stop [people from] killing each other," he said. [...] Since May 24, 17 people have been shot in city neighborhoods --including a drive-by shooting May 28 that killed a 15-year-old boy who is believed to have been a bystander." [Hartford Courant, 6/05/06]

**At The June 2006 Anti-Gun Violence Rally, McCrory Told The Crowd: "This Is Largely A Black Man's Problem, And We Need Black Men To Stop It." He Was Among Lawmakers Who Announced A New Coalition Called "Coalition Of Blacks Ready For Action" (COBRA) To Coordinate The Cease-Fire.** "Several Hartford lawmakers called what amounted to a combination news conference and community rally Monday to demand an[end] to the violence, asking warring neighborhood groups to observe what they termed a '60-day cease-fire.' 'We need you young brothers to understand,' said state Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford. 'We need you to stop shooting each other. ... Now!' A key goal of Monday's event was to persuade rival neighborhood groups to halt their turf battles. 'This is largely a black man's problem, and we need black men to stop it,' McCrory told the more than 100 people who gathered on a street corner in the heart of the predominantly black and Latino North End. 'We are going to surround and protect our children. That is the responsibility of the adults in our community,' said state Rep. Ken Green, D-Hartford. 'Put the guns down. Put the guns down.' [...] The legislators announced the formation of a new umbrella coalition of community groups and leaders called the Coalition of Blacks Ready for Action, or COBRA, to coordinate efforts to put their cease-fire into effect and to talk to youths in the neighborhoods. McCrory said lawmakers don't claim to have solutions to the crisis of violence. 'We don't have the answers,' he said. 'You young people have the solutions.'" [New Haven Register, 6/06/06]

## POST-SANDY HOOK GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LAW

**On January 30, 2013, At A Post-Sandy Hook Bipartisan Task Force Hearing, Then-Rep. McCrory Testified That He Was A Gun Owner With A Permit Who Believed In "The Constitutional Right To Bear My Arm."** "First, I'd like to say that I am a gun owner. I have a permit. I believe in the constitutional right to bear my arm, but also believe in responsibility. I live in a city that averages approximately 30 murders a year for the past 10 years." [Gun Violence Testimony, [1/30/13](#)]

**On January 30, 2013, McCrory Hedged On Whether Post-Sandy Hook Gun Control Legislation Would Work, Saying: "I'm Not Sure The Laws That We Put Together Is Going To Stop The Violence."** "I'm not sure the laws that we put together is going to stop the violence. I know it won't be a knee jerk reaction, because we're going to think diligently and hard about it, but I'm for one who believes the answer to the violence that has been taking place in our cities, in this state, in this country, won't come from us in these four walls." [Gun Violence Testimony, [1/30/13](#)]

**In February 2013 - Following The Newtown School Shooting - McCrory And Other Black And Latino Caucus Lawmakers Announced Public Forums On Gun Violence In Cities, With McCrory Saying "In Hartford, You Can Ask Any Child Over The Age Of 14 Years Old Where They Can Get A Gun, And They Can Tell You Where To Get A Gun. It's That Easy."** "State lawmakers in the Black and Latino Caucus announced plans Thursday to hold public forums with residents in Connecticut cities long beleaguered with gun violence. 'Many people in our communities do not have the luxury of coming to the state Capitol to testify on bills because they are hourly workers,' said state Rep. Douglas McCrory, a Hartford Democrat. 'But they are very concerned,' McCrory said. 'We should've probably had this conversation two or three years ago. The reality is what happened at Sandy Hook has caused everyone across this country to look in the mirror ... to look for plausible solutions.' Caucus members said they want to spotlight the shootings that have damaged urban neighborhoods, where the perpetrators are often young men with limited education, and from broken homes, who gain illegal access to firearms. The first town hall-style meeting is set for 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Faith Congregational Church on Main Street in Hartford. McCrory said there will be two such meetings in Hartford and possibly one in New Haven, and potentially other cities, in the coming weeks. [...] For McCrory, a big issue is handguns on the black market. In Hartford, 'you can ask any child over the age of 14 years old where they can get a gun, and they can tell you where to get a gun,' said McCrory, a school administrator. 'It's that easy.'" [Hartford Courant, 2/22/13]

**McCrory Voted Against Connecticut's Signature Post-Sandy Hook Gun Violence Prevention Law In April 2013; The Bill Passed The House 105-44 And McCrory Was One Of Thirteen House Democrats Who Voted Against It.** McCrory cast a no vote on House Roll Call 20 on Senate Bill 1160 ("An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention And Children's Safety") on April 4, 2013. The bill passed the House 105-44 with 96 House Democrats voting on the bill (83 Yea, 13 Nay including McCrory). McCrory also voted no on the three preceding House roll calls on the bill (Roll Calls 17, 18, and 19) on April 3, 2013. [Connecticut General Assembly, House Roll Call 20 on SB 1160, [4/4/13](#)]

- **The Bill Expanded Connecticut's Assault Weapons Ban, Banned The Sale Or Purchase Of Magazines Holding More Than 10 Rounds, Mandated A Deadly Weapon Offender Registry, Banned The Sale Of Armor-Piercing Bullets, Required Ammunition Buyers To Hold An Ammunition Certificate Or Other Gun Credential, And Expanded The Circumstances In Which Mental Health History Disqualified A Person From Obtaining Gun Permits.** "The bill makes numerous changes in the laws governing (1) firearms, (2) mental health insurance coverage and service provision, and (3) security for K-12 public schools and institutions of higher education. [...] The bill, among other things, expands the ban on assault weapons, bans the sale or purchase of LCMs that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, mandates the establishment of a deadly weapon offender registry, bans the sale of armor-piercing bullets, adds two members to the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners, expands the circumstances in which mental health history disqualifies a person for gun permits or other gun credentials, requires anyone buying ammunition to have an ammunition certificate or other gun credential, and appropriates \$1 million to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) for FY 14 to fund the statewide firearms trafficking task force." [OLR Bill Analysis, sSB 1160, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **Connecticut Mirror Capitol Bureau Chief Mark Pazniokas Specifically Singled Out McCrory's Vote In His Coverage Of The Bill's Passage As An "Unexpected No Vote," Reporting That McCrory Said The Bill "Did Nothing To Stem Urban Violence."** "An unexpected no vote came Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, a school vice principal. He said the bill did nothing to stem urban violence." [Mark Pazniokas, "Connecticut General Assembly passes bipartisan gun bill," CT Mirror, [4/4/13](#)]
- **The Bill, In Addition To Banning Assault Weapons And Large Capacity Magazines, Imposed Universal Background Checks On Gun Purchasers, Created The Nation's First Gun-Offender Registry, Imposed The Same Rules On Ammunition Sales As On Firearm Sales, And Established Mandatory Prison Sentences For Gun Trafficking.** "The legislation was written to cover broad concerns about firearms, school safety and mental health. It imposes universal background checks on gun purchasers, creates the nation's first gun-offender registry and imposes the same rules on the sale of ammunition as now apply to firearms. It also imposes mandatory prison sentences: three years for gun trafficking, and two years for stealing a firearm or transferring owners to a person ineligible [sic] to own a firearm, typically someone with a criminal record or mental illness." [Mark Pazniokas, CT Mirror, [4/4/13](#)]

**McCrory Called The Bill's Title A "Misnomer" Because The Legislation Contained No Prevention Funding.** "I will argue that the title of Senate Bill 1160[,] [A]n [A]ct [C]oncerning [G]un [V]iolence [P]revention[,] is a misnomer, because we don't have \$1 of prevention in this bill. Now we might do something by the end of the session to put funding in for prevention programs that we know work. But tonight, that's not what we're doing." [Gun Violence and Children's Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]

**As An Educator, McCrory Graded The Bill “Incomplete” Because It Did Not Address Gun Violence In Connecticut’s Cities.** “If you ask me, as an educator, the grade I give to this piece of legislation is incomplete. It’s incomplete because it doesn’t speak to the issue of gun violence that has permeated our cities in this great state.” [Gun Violence and Children’s Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]

**McCrory Said The Bill Would Not Address The “Core Issues” Of Gun Violence — Illegal Guns And Lack Of Opportunity.** “It may prevent another [Newtown] from happening. It may prevent or get someone some mental health services. It may make our schools a little safer, but it won’t address the core issues of gun violence, illegal guns, opportunity, that must be champion[ed].” [Gun Violence and Children’s Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]

**McCrory Said Passing The Bill Would Mean Picking And Choosing Which Communities Got Gun Violence Supports, Calling That A “Shame.”** “Shame on us for deciding that after we pass this legislation, some communities will get the supports they need that others won’t. God help us if you come to that point now, we’re going to pick and choose. It’s not right. It’s just not right.” [Gun Violence and Children’s Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]

- **McCrory Recounted That A Hartford Grandmother Confronted Him At A District Forum, Telling Him He Was “Only” There Because Of Sandy Hook.** “She looked me in my eyes, and she said to me, the only reason why you’re here is because of what happened at Sandy Hook. I had no response. It was the first time in my professional and political career that I could not come up with a[n] appropriate response to a constituent, and I was hurt, because what she said to me was absolutely right.” [Gun Violence and Children’s Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]
- **McCrory Publicly Apologized On The House Floor For Lawmakers’ Failure To Act On Urban Gun Violence Before Sandy Hook.** “It is a shame, a shame [and] a sin that I could not respond to that grandmother[,] and tonight, I want to publicly apologize for not being there for those families who lost loved ones year after year after year. After year[,] and it’s not like we haven’t tried to change gun laws in Connecticut before this evening.” [Gun Violence and Children’s Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]

**McCrory Rejected Characterizing The Bill’s Gun Trafficking Task Force As An “Investment In The Inner Cities,” Saying Real Investment Meant Funding Human Capital And Opportunity.** “It was stated earlier that we put funding in for the gun trafficking task force. But when that comment was made, it said, this will be a strong investment in the inner cities. Now you think about that, we need to fund a gun [t]ask [f]orce for it to be an investment? No, if you want to invest in these inner cities, invest in the human capital [that] exist[s] there[,] provide opportunity.” [Gun Violence and Children’s Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]

**During Floor Debate, McCrory Raised Concerns That The Bill’s Ammunition-Possession Provisions Would Create A Class C Felony With A Two-Year Mandatory Minimum For Those Previously Convicted Of Misdemeanors Such As Third-Degree Assault.** “So what I’m clear on now is the fact that if an individual had an altercation, which [...] could be designated as a third degree assault, and after passage of this legislation, if that individual is [found] with a bullet, maybe in [their] car, maybe in possession, that person is deemed a felon and will require [a] two[-]year jail sentence and a mandatory two[-]year jail time.” [Gun Violence and Children’s Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]

**McCrory Concluded The Bill “Doesn’t Go Far Enough” And Said As “A Man Of My Word, My Character, I Cannot Support It.”** “Don’t think that I’m against what’s in this bill, because what’s in this bill is good, but it doesn’t go far enough, and because I am a man of my word, my character, I cannot support it. I cannot support it.” [Gun Violence and Children’s Safety Vote Remarks, 4/5/13]

## STATE PREEMPTION OF MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

**McCrory Voted In The Joint Judiciary Committee For HB 5227, A Republican-Sponsored Bill That Would Have Prohibited Connecticut Municipalities From Adopting Local Firearm Ordinances; The Bill Failed In Committee On A 19-21 Vote With Joint Committee Democrats Opposing 21-3, And McCrory Was One Of Three Democrats Voting Yes.** On April 8, 2019, the Joint Judiciary Committee voted on the Joint Favorable motion for HB 5227. McCrory voted Yea. The motion failed 19-21. Joint committee Democrats voted 3-21 against; McCrory was one of three Democrats voting in favor. The bill was introduced by Rep. Brian Lanoue (R-45th Dist) and the Joint Favorable motion was made by Sen. John Kissel (R-7th Dist) and seconded by Rep. Craig Fishbein (R-90th Dist). [Connecticut General Assembly, Judiciary Committee Vote Tally Sheet On HB 5227, [4/8/19](#)]

- **The Bill's Stated Purpose Was "To Prohibit The Regulation Of Firearms By Municipalities," And It Would Have Amended Chapter 98 Of The General Statutes "To Prohibit Municipalities From Adopting Ordinances To Regulate Firearms."** "AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FIREARMS BY MUNICIPALITIES. [...] That chapter 98 of the general statutes be amended to prohibit municipalities from adopting ordinances to regulate firearms. Statement of Purpose: To prohibit the regulation of firearms by municipalities." [Connecticut General Assembly, HB 5227 (Proposed Bill, LCO No. 534, Rep. Lanoue, 45th Dist.), [January Session 2019](#)]
- **Giffords Law Center Identifies Connecticut As One Of Only A Handful Of States Whose Statutes Do Not Preempt Local Firearm Regulation, Giving Cities And Towns Authority To Pass Gun Ordinances Stricter Than State Law. HB 5227 Would Have Reversed That Posture And Aligned Connecticut With States That Block Local Gun Safety Measures.** "Connecticut has not expressly preempted local laws in the area of firearms regulation. Connecticut courts also have not found that the legislature has demonstrated an intent to occupy the field of firearms and ammunition regulation. Absent a direct conflict with state law, broad local firearms and ammunition regulation appears possible." [Giffords Law Center, "Preemption Of Local Laws Laws in Connecticut," accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **Connecticut Against Gun Violence (CAGV) Submitted Testimony On HB 5227 To The Joint Judiciary Committee On Behalf Of The State's Leading Gun Violence Prevention Organization.** [Jeremy Stein, Executive Director, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, Testimony On HB 5227 To CGA Judiciary Committee, [3/11/19](#)]

## HOUSING

**In June 2020 - As Vice Chairman Of The Legislature's Housing Committee - McCrory Said Connecticut "Has Never Really Enforced The Fair Housing Act Of 1968" And Called Out Suburban Towns For Restrictive Zoning, Saying "The Larger Cities Have Been Sheltering Most Of The Responsibility For Affordable Housing."** "Sen. Douglas McCrory of Hartford called on his fellow lawmakers to address the zoning restrictions that have made Connecticut one of the most economically and racially segregated states in the nation. 'Connecticut has never really enforced the Fair Housing Act of 1968,' said McCrory, vice chairman of the legislature's housing committee. 'The larger cities have been sheltering most of the responsibility for affordable housing.' Housing segregation underpins so many of the state's inequities, from education and health care to jobs and the environment, he said. 'Your zip code affects your health care,' he said, pointing out the dearth of supermarkets in Hartford. 'Until we take a bigger approach to these larger issues, we're never going to get anything done.' McCrory and other members of the Senate Democratic caucus are crafting a sweeping agenda to address these entrenched racial divisions. They hope the omnibus package will be acted on during a special legislative session next month. 'We have to be bold and brave about making systemic changes,' McCrory said. 'We've had these systems in place for too long.'" [Hartford Courant, 6/14/20]

**On November 23, 2021, McCrory Tweeted Praise For \$2.4 Million In Federal Eviction Protection Grants To CT Fair Housing, Calling It "Right-To-Counsel Law In Action."** "New: @ctfairhousing received \$2.4M in @HUDgov 's first round of funding for the Eviction Protection Grant Program. It will allow them to assist in providing legal assistance to low-income tenants facing the possibility of eviction. Great to see the right-to-counsel law in action!" [SenMcCrory Twitter/X, [11/23/21](#)]

**In April 2025, McCrory Joined Gov. Lamont In Announcing A \$30 Million "CT Home Funds" Generational Wealth Housing Program In Hartford's Clay Arsenal Neighborhood (8% Homeownership Rate Vs. 70% In West Hartford). McCrory Said: "There Has Not Been A Lot Of Investment In This Community In A Very Long Time... Four Million Dollars, That's A Good Start, But We're 50 Years Behind."** "On a vacant lot next to an abandoned multi-family apartment building in the under-resourced Clay Arsenal neighborhood, Gov. Ned Lamont on Tuesday announced a new multi-million dollar initiative to leverage loans, down payments and energy upgrades to promote the promise of generational wealth in home ownership. Hartford Mayor Arunan Arulampalam called a portion of it — \$2 million each from the city and state — a first-in-the-nation investment in a Black and brown neighborhood that was formerly one of the most dangerous in the state. Veteran state Sen. Doug McCrory, D-Hartford, called the program a small step to help a neighborhood of mostly two- and three-family homes with and aging housing stock and a populace that's just barely holding on economically. In all, the state will commit \$30 million to start 'CT Home Funds,' including \$8.5 million in low-interest loans for energy and housing code improvements; \$10 million for home rehabilitation under the current \$150 million 'Time to Own' program, which has already provided forgivable loans of down payments for 5,800 first-time home buyers; and \$11.5 million for grants of \$150,000 for non-profits and small developers. [...] McCrory, in his 20th year in the General Assembly, said he's very familiar with residents of the neighborhood. He recalled that half a century ago, his

father owned a grocery store in the neighborhood, which he said hasn't changed much. 'There has not been a lot of investment in this community in a very long time,' McCrory said. 'When they hear headlines on how we're spending millions and millions of dollars in the state and they say about millions and millions of dollars going downtown, they ask me what are you going to do for us? That's why I'm happy that the governor listened when we came with an idea to improve our community. Four million dollars, that's a good start, but we're 50 years behind.'" [Connecticut Post, 4/01/25]

## ISRAEL

*NOTE: Web search and primary-source pulls in this pass turned up zero McCrory floor statements, press releases, joint statements, X/Twitter posts, or constituent newsletter items addressing Israel, Palestine, Gaza, the October 7, 2023 attack, Hamas, antisemitism, or Israeli-Palestinian policy more broadly.*

## LABOR

**McCrory Voted For SB 1502, The Bipartisan State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2019, In October 2017; The Budget Passed The Senate 33-3.** McCrory cast a yes vote for SB 1502 on emergency certification. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 468, [10/26/17](#)]

- **The Bill Established The State Budget For Fiscal Years 2018 And 2019, Made Appropriations, Authorized And Adjusted State Bonds, And Implemented Provisions Of The Budget.** "AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2019, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AUTHORIZING AND ADJUSTING BONDS OF THE STATE AND IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET." [OLR Bill Analysis, SB 1502 Emergency Certification, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **The Connecticut AFL-CIO Identified McCrory's Yes Vote On SB 1502 As The First Of Three Wrong Votes On Its 2017-2018 Legislative Scorecard. The AFL-CIO Cataloged The Bipartisan Budget's Anti-Labor Provisions, Including Limits On SEBAC Agreements, Creation Of The Municipal Accountability Review Board, And A Commission That "Recommended Eliminating State Employee Pensions And Healthcare From Collective Bargaining And Cutting An Additional \$1 Billion From Future Budgets."** "SB 1502 STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2019. Passed Senate 33-3-0. A 'NO' vote is correct vote. This 'bipartisan' budget was negotiated without Governor Malloy and adopted in October 2017. Its most egregious provisions include: Limiting future SEBAC agreements to 4 years and requiring floor votes on state employee contracts and arbitration awards; Establishing an irrebuttable presumption that excludes 15% of municipal fund balances from funding arbitration award items; Creating the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB), which can overturn collective bargaining agreements and mandate arbitration; Establishing the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth which recommended eliminating state employee pensions and healthcare from collective bargaining and cutting an additional \$1 billion from future budgets; Raising the prevailing wage threshold on new construction from \$400,000 to \$1 million; and Increasing teachers' pension contributions from 6% to 7% of salary and significantly cutting the state's share of teacher retiree healthcare costs." [Connecticut AFL-CIO 2017-2018 Senate Scorecard, accessed via Internet Archive, [9/5/18](#)]

**McCrory Voted For HB 6266 In June 2017, A Bill That Eliminated Mixed Martial Arts Promoters' Liability To Pay The Health Care Costs Of Injured Competitors And Replaced It With Liability Insurance Modeled On Boxing.** McCrory cast a yes vote for Senate passage of HB 6266. The bill passed the Senate 27-9. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 310, [6/6/17](#)]

- **The Bill Eliminated MMA Promoters' Liability To Pay Healthcare Costs A Competitor Incurred From An Injury, Illness, Disease, Or Condition Resulting From An MMA Match For The Entire Duration Of The Condition, Replacing It With Insurance And Death Benefits On The Same Terms As Boxing Promoters; The Bill Also Eliminated The 5% Gross Receipt Tax On MMA And Boxing Promoters.** "This bill eliminates mixed martial arts (MMA) promoters' liability to pay the health care costs an MMA competitor incurs from an injury, illness, disease, or condition resulting from an MMA match for the entire duration of the injury, illness, disease, or condition. It instead requires MMA promoters to provide liability insurance and death benefits on the same terms as boxing promoters. [...] The bill eliminates (1) the 5% gross receipt tax that boxing and MMA promoters must pay under current law, (2) the requirement for promoters to file a surety bond with the emergency services and public protection commissioner as a condition of being licensed, and (3) related reporting provisions on matches and event receipts." [OLR Bill Analysis, HB 6266, accessed [5/9/26](#)]

- **The Connecticut AFL-CIO Identified McCrory's Yes Vote On The MMA Healthcare Bill (Tracked As SB 913 In The AFL-CIO Scorecard And HB 6266 In The Roll Call Record) As One Of Three Wrong Votes On Its 2017-2018 Legislative Scorecard. The Union Said "This Bill Caps The Healthcare Costs Mixed Martial Arts Promoters Are Required To Provide Fighters Injured In The Ring At \$20,000 Per Match."** "SB 913 AAC BOXING EVENTS AND MIXED MARTIAL ARTS MATCHES. Passed Senate 27-9-0. A 'NO' vote is the correct vote. This bill caps the healthcare costs mixed martial arts promoters are required to provide fighters injured in the ring at \$20,000 per match." [Connecticut AFL-CIO 2017-2018 Senate Scorecard, accessed via Internet Archive, [9/5/18](#)]

## AFSCME MOUS

**McCrory Abstained On The Senate Vote To Approve The State's Memorandum Of Understanding With AFSCME Local 749 And The Judicial Branch In May 2019; The Resolution Failed By One Vote.** On Senate Roll Call 278 on May 31, 2019, McCrory was recorded as "Not Voting" on Senate Resolution 29 (the AFSCME Local 749 / Judicial Branch MOU). The resolution failed 18-17. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 278 on SR 29, [5/31/19](#)]

- **McCrory Also Abstained On The Senate Vote To Approve A 2020 AFSCME Local 3419 / DCF Program Managers Interest Arbitration Award.** On Senate Roll Call 31 on March 4, 2020 on Senate Resolution 4 (the AFSCME Local 3419 / DCF arbitration award), McCrory was recorded as "Not Voting." [Connecticut General Assembly, accessed via Plural Policy / CGA, [5/9/26](#)]

## MARRIAGE EQUALITY

**On The 2009 Final Passage Of Senate Bill 899 — The Bill That Codified Marriage Equality In Connecticut Following The Connecticut Supreme Court's Kerrigan v. Commissioner Of Public Health Decision — McCrory Voted Nay On House Roll Call 98 On April 22, 2009. The Bill Passed The House 100-44 With 7 Representatives Absent.** McCrory's no vote on Senate Bill 899, "An Act Implementing The Guarantee Of Equal Protection Under The Constitution Of The State For Same Sex Couples," placed him among the 44 representatives opposing the bill on final passage. The bill was signed by Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell on April 23, 2009 as Public Act 09-13. [Connecticut General Assembly, House Roll Call 98 on SB 899, [4/22/09](#)]

- **McCrory Was One Of Just 16 Democrats — Out Of A 114-Member House Democratic Majority — To Oppose Marriage Equality On Final Passage.** Of the 44 representatives voting Nay on House Roll Call 98, 28 were Republicans (out of 37 in the GOP caucus) and 16 were Democrats. McCrory's fellow Democrats voting Nay were Reps. Aldarondo, Berger, Boukus, Butler, Esposito, Fawcett, Gentile, Gonzalez, Graziani, Guerrero, Mikutel, P. Miller, Mioli, Morris, Nicastro, and Roy. [[Connecticut General Assembly, House Roll Call 98 on SB 899, 4/22/09](#); [House Republican Caucus 2009 roster \(archived\)](#)]
- **McCrory Voted Yea On The Cafero Amendment (LCO #5952), Which Would Have Let Parents Pull Children Out Of Any Public-School "Program Of Instruction Concerning Marriage."** The amendment, offered by House Republican Leader Larry Cafero, would have rewritten Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-16e to expand the existing family-life-program opt-out so that "no student shall be required by any local or regional board of education to participate in any such family life program or any program of instruction concerning marriage" upon written notification by a parent or guardian. The House rejected the amendment 50-93 with 8 absent. [[Connecticut General Assembly, House Roll Call 97 on SB 899 \(LCO 5952\), 4/22/09](#); [Text of House Schedule A LCO 5952](#)]

*NOTE: SB 899 was Connecticut's statutory codification of marriage equality after the October 2008 Kerrigan ruling. Bill passed the Senate 28-7 and the House 100-44; signed into law as Public Act 09-13 by Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell on April 23, 2009.*

## RANKED CHOICE VOTING

**McCrory Voted Against Authorizing Ranked-Choice Voting For Connecticut Party Caucuses, Conventions, And Primaries In The 2025 Appropriations Committee; He Was One Of Only Two Senate Democrats On The Joint Committee To Vote No.** On May 23, 2025, the Joint Appropriations Committee approved SB 1536, "An Act Concerning The Use Of Ranked-Choice Voting In Party Caucuses, Conventions And Primaries, Including Presidential Primaries," by a Joint Favorable vote of 38-14. Committee Democrats voted 38-2 in favor; McCrory was one of two Democrats opposed. [Connecticut General Assembly, Appropriations Committee Vote Tally Sheet On SB 1536, [5/23/25](#)]

- **SB 1536 Followed The Recommendations Of Gov. Lamont's Working Group On Ranked-Choice Voting And Was Supported By A Broad Bipartisan Coalition Including Common Cause, The League Of Women Voters Of Connecticut, The Connecticut League Of Conservation Voters, The Connecticut Independent Party, FairVote Action, Veterans Groups, And Labor Organizations.** "I am writing to express FairVote Action's support for SB 1536, a bill that would give political parties in Connecticut the option to use RCV in any party primary for local, state, or federal offices, including for president. This bill will give parties the tools to run primaries that are fairer and have outcomes that better represent the will of Connecticut residents. Further, this bill will: (1) help parties nominate more consistently viable candidates who bring their supporters together; (2) offer voters more choices on their ballots; (3) promote more positive, issues-focused campaigns; and (4) create a more level playing field for female candidates and candidates of color. But perhaps most importantly, SB 1536 will give parties the opportunity to let all Connecticut voters have a stronger say in which candidates appear on their ballots in November." [Deb Otis, Director of Policy & Research, FairVote Action, Testimony In Support Of SB 1536, [3/24/25](#)]

## SEXUAL ASSAULT

**In March 2015, Sen. Mae Flexer Cited McCrory Among Lawmakers Whose "Unfortunate Comments" During Debate On Connecticut's Affirmative Consent Bill Showed "Lack Of Understanding About Sexual Assault." McCrory Asked Whether Hugging And Kissing Constitutes Sexual Activity And Said "A Smile And A Wink Is Not A Smile And A Wink Anymore."** "While state Rep. Mike Bocchino, R-Greenwich, was openly criticized by the Connecticut Democratic Party for comments he made during discussion of the bill at a recent meeting, Flexer said he was just one of several people from both parties to make 'unfortunate comments.' [...] She said confusion was evident in comments from state Rep. Douglas McCrory, D-Hartford, who asked if hugging and kissing constitutes sexual activity and if a smile and a wink constitutes consent. The remarks that bothered Flexer came when McCrory cited a hypothetical situation in which non-verbal consent for a sexual encounter is given but later, when the relationship ends, one person makes an assault accusation in retaliation for the breakup. What happens if the accuser then says no consent was given, McCrory asked. 'A smile and a wink is not a smile and a wink anymore,' he said. 'I don't know what affirmative consent is actually saying, what we're saying here.' Flexer said the comment left her frustrated by the lack of understanding about sexual assault. 'A wink and a smile has never been consent,' she said." [New Haven Register, 3/28/15]

**As A State Representative In April 2016, McCrory Was The Only House Democrat To Vote Against The Affirmative Consent Bill, Which Required Connecticut Higher Education Institutions To Adopt An Affirmative Consent Standard When Determining Whether Sexual Activity Is Consensual For Purposes Of Their Sexual Misconduct Policies.** McCrory cast a no vote on House Roll Call 161 on HB 5376 ("An Act Concerning Affirmative Consent") on April 28, 2016. The bill passed the House 138-7. House Democrats voted 84-1 in favor; McCrory was the lone House Democrat in opposition. [Connecticut General Assembly, House Roll Call 161 on HB 5376, [4/28/16](#)]

- **The Bill Required Higher Education Institutions In Connecticut To Use A Standard Of Affirmative Consent When Determining, In The Context Of Their Sexual Assault, Stalking, And Intimate Partner Violence Policies, Whether Sexual Activity Was Consensual; The Policies Were Required To Include Clear Statements Advising Students And Employees Of The Affirmative Consent Standard.** "By law, higher education institutions in Connecticut must adopt and disclose one or more policies on sexual assault, stalking, and intimate partner violence. Among other things, the policies must include provisions about (1) providing, to students and employees who report or disclose being victims of such violence, information about their options for assistance; (2) disciplinary procedures; and (3) possible sanctions. This bill requires institutions to use a standard of affirmative consent when determining, in the context of these policies, whether sexual activity is consensual. The policies must include clear statements advising students and employees of the affirmative consent standard." [OLR Bill Analysis, sHB 5376, accessed [5/9/26](#)]
- **Connecticut Mirror Reporters Keith Phaneuf And Jacqueline Rabe Thomas Specifically Identified McCrory As "The Only Democrat" Voting Against The Affirmative Consent Bill At The House Floor Vote, Alongside Six Republicans (Reps. Ziobron, Mulligan, O'Dea, Piscopo, Sampson, And Staneski).** "Opposing the bill were six Republicans — Ziobron, Gayle Mulligan of Hebron, Tom O'Dea of New Canaan, John Piscopo of [sic] Thomaston, Rob C. Sampson of Wolcott and Pam Staneski of Milford. The only Democrat was Douglas McCrory of Hartford." [Keith M. Phaneuf and Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, "House overwhelmingly adopts affirmative-consent bill," CT Mirror, [4/28/16](#)]

- **The Bill's Champion, Sen. Mae Flexer (D-Killingly), Said The Legislation Was About Changing The Mentality Of College Students: "We Are Teaching College Students That You Need To Ask Permission Before You Have Sex With Someone."** "Sen. Mae Flexer of Killingly – a Democrat whose district includes the University of Connecticut, Eastern Connecticut State University and Quinebaug Community College – said the bill also ensures the policies will be enforced. 'They may have the affirmative consent policy on the books, but it's sitting [o]n a shelf somewhere not being used,' she said during an interview. 'This mandates that it's used. I know it's not being done everywhere now.' [...] Flexer said the legislation is about changing the mentality of college students. 'We are teaching college students that you need to ask permission before you have sex with someone,' she said." [Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, "The basics: Bill shifting consent standard in campus sex assaults wins final passage," CT Mirror, [5/4/16](#)]
- **Connecticut Was The Fourth State In The Nation To Adopt An Affirmative Consent Standard For College Sexual Misconduct Cases When HB 5376 Passed; The Bill Was Spurred In Part By A High-Profile UConn Sexual Assault Lawsuit That The University Settled For \$1.3 Million.** "The state Senate gave final passage Monday to a bill that establishes an affirmative-consent threshold in cases of sexual assault on all college and university campuses in Connecticut. The bill now heads to Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's desk. If he signs it, Connecticut would be the fourth state to adopt such a standard. [...] UConn drew attention two years ago when a group of students filed a lawsuit and a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights alleging the university was unresponsive or insufficiently responsive when they came forward after being sexually assaulted or harassed. [...] The university has since settled that lawsuit for \$1.3 million. [...] One in 10 female students at the University of Connecticut's main campus in Storrs surveyed last winter by a national consortium reported that they had been sexually assaulted since enrolling in school." [CT Mirror, [5/4/16](#)]

*NOTE: Affirmative consent ("yes means yes") is a sexual assault prevention standard requiring affirmative, conscious, and voluntary agreement to sexual activity rather than the absence of "no." The bill was signed into law by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy as Public Act 16-106. The Senate's only no vote came from Sen. Joe Markley (R-Southington), who objected on libertarian grounds ("I've never seen a policy that gets government more in the bedroom"). McCrory's was the only no vote cast by a House Democrat.*

## VOTING RIGHTS

**McCrory Was The Lone Senate Democrat To Vote Yes On A Republican Amendment To The 2024 Election Bill That Would Have Created A Mail-Based Verification And Purge Mechanism For Same-Day Registrants And All Absentee Voters; Every Other Senate Democrat Voted Against The Amendment.** On May 8, 2024, Sen. Sampson (R-16) offered Senate Amendment Schedule "C" (LCO 5738) to HB 5498. McCrory voted Yea. The amendment was rejected 13-23. McCrory was the only one of 24 Senate Democrats voting Yea; the other 12 Yea votes came from all 12 Senate Republicans. [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Roll Call 281, [5/8/24](#)]

- **The Amendment Would Have Required Registrars To Send Mailed Confirmation Notices To Every Voter Who Registered Through Same-Day Registration Or Voted By Absentee Ballot, And Required Voters Whose Confirmation Mail Was Returned Undelivered To Be Placed On The Inactive Registry List And Reported To The State Elections Enforcement Commission For Investigation.** "After the acceptance of a same-day election registration, the registrars of voters shall forthwith send a registration confirmation notice to the residential address of each applicant who was admitted as an elector on election day or during the period of early voting prior to election day under this section. [...] If a confirmation notice is returned undelivered, the registrars shall forthwith take the necessary action in accordance with section 9-35 or 9-43, as applicable. [...] At the conclusion of the counting of absentee ballots, the registrars of voters shall forthwith send a confirmation notice to the residential address of each elector who voted by absentee ballot. [...] [the registrars] shall report all information resulting in such determination to the State Elections Enforcement Commission which shall conduct an investigation of the matter." [Connecticut General Assembly, Senate Amendment Schedule "C" to HB 5498, LCO 5738 (Sen. Harding and Sen. Sampson), [5/8/24](#)]
- **The Brennan Center For Justice Has Long Criticized The Use Of Returned Mail To Trigger Voter Purges Or Investigations As "Voter Caging," A Practice Connecticut's Own National Voter Registration Act Compliance Specifically Limits, Because Returned Mail Is "Not A Reliable Indicator Of Ineligibility" And Reflects Mail Delivery Errors, Address Changes, And Housing Instability Far More Often Than Improper Registration.** "Voter caging is the practice of sending mail to addresses on the voter rolls, compiling a list of the mail that is returned undelivered, and using that list to purge or challenge voters' registrations on the grounds that the voters on the list do not legally reside at their registered addresses. [...] [V]oter caging lists are highly likely to

include the names of many voters who are in fact eligible to vote." [Brennan Center for Justice, "A Guide to Voter Caging," accessed [5/9/26](#)]