



YANKEE INSTITUTE

Quarterly Review

WINTER 2021 | ISSUE 1

Policy

Transportation
Education &
Major Budget
Deficits

BREAKING News

Connecticut Signs
Onto Tax Fight,
Over \$400M
At Stake

MARK YOUR Calendar

Capitol Insiders' Briefing

Yankee Institute Champions
of Freedom Gala

Thomas Schoeller
PHOTOGRAPHY

THOMAS SCHOELLER PHOTOGRAPHY / GRAYLEDGE FARM IN LITCHFIELD COUNTY, CT



Policy Updates

Yankee Institute marked the thirtieth anniversary of Connecticut's state income tax with an analysis that examined, among other issues, how lawmakers and governors have ratcheted up the tax when revenues have fallen short and spent the resulting windfalls without then reducing taxes. The income tax's history serves as a warning amid new proposals for highway tolls, a statewide property tax, and other money grabs: unless Hartford makes meaningful reforms to reduce spending, the next new tax hike won't be the last.

The 2021 state legislative session is underway in Hartford, and Governor Lamont will unveil his budget proposal for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 on February 10. State tax receipts have recovered close to pre-COVID levels, but budget officials forecast deficits after 2023.

The Special Transportation Fund (STF), which finances road construction and other transportation activities, will be an area of particular concern. The fund is operating in the red and will run out of money by 2024, and as Yankee Institute's investigative journalist Marc Fitch warned last month, state lawmakers have resumed their push to backfill the fund with highway tolls. Lamont,

meanwhile, has signed the state on to the Transportation and Climate Initiative, an agreement with Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Washington D.C. that commits to cutting emissions from cars and trucks by pushing up the price of gasoline and diesel fuel. The governor estimates TCI will cost drivers an estimated \$1 billion over 10 years with some—but not all—of the proceeds flowing into the STF.

The pandemic revealed a major gap in Connecticut's public education system, which spends more than \$20,000 per K-12 student per year—more than all but one state. Students struggled with haphazard virtual instruction and many still haven't returned to the classroom. All the while, children in the same neighborhoods were often able to keep learning through parochial and private schools and homeschool arrangements. The need for families to have more options for where their kids go to school has never been more apparent. Yankee helped kick off a broader conversation about school choice with a proposal to leverage private donations with state support for scholarships to rescue students from failed public education arrangements.

New Website

Our site has been redesigned to help you access the latest news from our investigative journalism team and resources like our policy briefs. The goal of our new look is to amplify Yankee's message and drive new readers to our site -- and so far, it seems to be working!

*New Website –
Overall Performance (1/1-1/31)*



38,311
TOTAL USERS



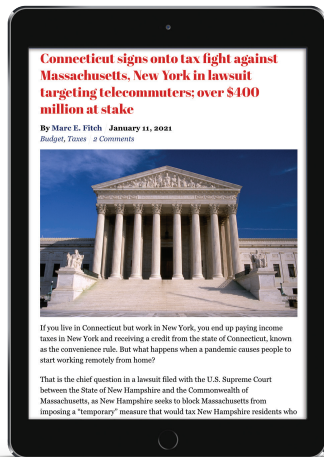
62,433
TOTAL PAGE VIEWS



16,142
TOTAL SESSIONS VIA
SOCIAL REFERRAL

Investigative Journalism

ARTICLE PERFORMANCE: JANUARY 1-21, 2021



Budget, Taxes

Connecticut Signs Onto Tax Fight Against Massachusetts, NY In Lawsuit Targeting Telecommuters; Over \$400M At Stake

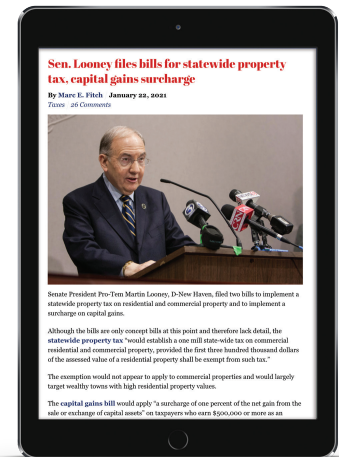
TOTAL POST ENGAGEMENTS: 278
TOTAL PAGE VIEWS: 1,416



Tolls

Senators Haskell And Kasser File New Tolls Bill For 2021

TOTAL POST ENGAGEMENTS: 1,567
TOTAL PAGE VIEWS: 2,157



Taxes

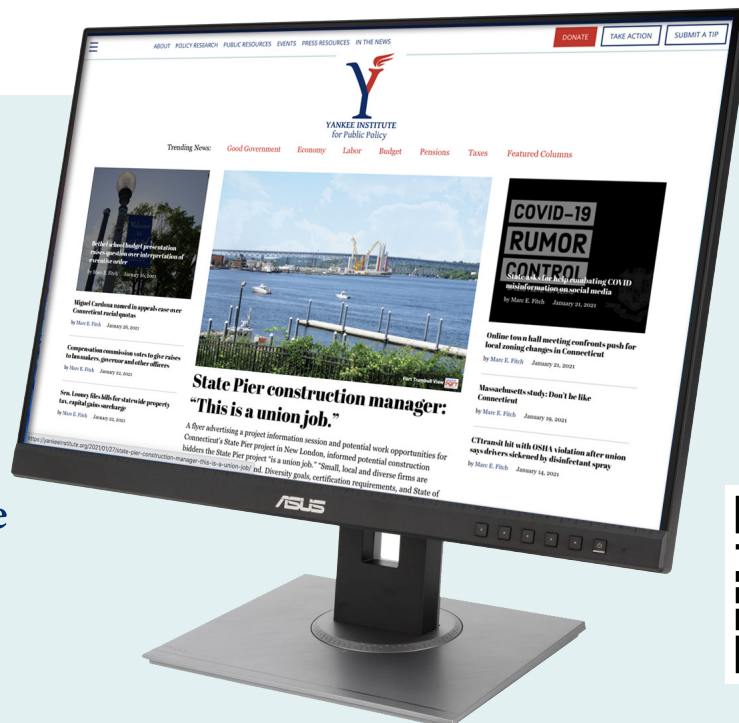
Sen. Looney Files Bill For Statewide Property Tax, Capital Gains Surcharge

TOTAL POST ENGAGEMENTS: 1,772
TOTAL PAGE VIEWS: 7,766



Top New Features

- Check out our new “submit a tip” feature
- Navigate by policy subject matter
- Enhanced ability to measure user engagement with Yankee’s work



Save The Dates

Thursday, April 8, 2021
Capitol Insiders' Briefing

Saturday, November 13, 2021
Yankee Institute Champions
of Freedom Gala



YankeeInstitute.org



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