

**State Tax Panel  
December 15, 2015 at 10:00 am  
Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by co-chair Bill Nickerson. Members present: Bill Dyson, Bill Nickerson, Melinda Agsten, Al Casella, Alan Clavette, John Elsesser, Rep. Vinny Candelora(for Rep. Davis), Sen. Scott Frantz, Marian Galbraith, Tiana Gianopulos, Howard K. Hill. Anika Singh Lemar, Don Marchand, David Nee (by conference call), Kevin Sullivan, Tom Fiore (for Ben Barnes) Lou Schatz, Robert Testo(by conference call). Also present were; Bob Ebel, Michael Bell, Pat Widlitz and Mary Finnegan. Absent were: Bill Breetz, Sen. Marty Looney, Rep. Brendan Sharkey, Sen. John Fonfara, and Rep. Jeff Berger.

Chairman Nickerson reminded the members that today's goal is to reach a set of recommendations that will provide guidelines and directions for state and local revenue policy as Connecticut enters the 2020's. He also indicated that the panel's statutory authority ends on December 31, 2015 and the chairs will be forwarding to the General Assembly the set of recommendations arrived at today accompanied by a letter of transmittal.

In January and February the Executive Director will prepare a final report that will summarize the panel's research and context that will accompany the recommendations (Volume 1). Members of the panel will have the opportunity to review this final report which will then be transmitted to the General Assembly. Volume 2 will be a compendium of consultant research papers to be printed and published separately and may not be available in hard copy until the middle of 2016. All research papers are now posted on the website so go to [www.cga.ct.gov](http://www.cga.ct.gov), then committees, then Finance, and scroll to bottom left for State Tax Panel.

Anika Singh Lemar asked if the order of discussion could be changed to allow property tax to be first. She indicated that it had gotten short shrift in the deliberations to date and it affected the most people. Bill Nickerson responded that every topic would be discussed and every person would be heard. The agreement between the chairs was to get the easier consensus issues done first so as to allow time for deliberating the difficult ones without a time constraint. The panel by consensus made recommendations on the following taxes which will be outlined in detail in the report due on December 31, 2015.

1. The Connecticut Individual Income Tax
2. The Connecticut General Retail Sales Tax
3. The Connecticut General Business Taxation
4. The Connecticut Estate and Gift Tax and Probate Fees
5. Property Tax and Local Revenue Diversification

There was a great deal of discussion on the needs of municipalities and the need for the State to carry through on their promised revenue to the cities and towns. Bill Dyson told the members that the hard work really begins now. The panel needs to stay involved and get the message to the Legislature which

may be non-believers. We need to embrace what we have done otherwise our ideas will die a slow death in the years ahead.

Pat Widlitz thanked everyone for their work on a statute that she helped enact and indicated that she felt that the product was substantial.

Bill Nickerson thanked Mary Finnegan for her stewardship and organization of the panel. He also thanked OFA, OLR, OPM and DRS for their input and guidance to the panel.

Bill Nickerson thanked Bob Ebel and Michael Bell for the intensive work and the volume of paperwork produced as well as the expertise provided.

Mary Finnegan thanked the panel members for their hard work and respect for the process and indicated that she had learned a great deal.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Finnegan  
Administrator

**\*\*Special thanks to Tom Fiore and Manisha Srivastava of OPM for their assistance with all of these complicated minutes.**