



CONNECTICUT
DEMOCRACY CENTER

2024-2025

Impact Report

Thank you to all of our generous CTDC supporters & funders!

Community Foundation of Eastern CT
Community Foundation of Middlesex County
Connecticut Community Foundation
CT Humanities
CT State Library
Draper Foundation Fund
Ensworth Charitable Foundation
Evelyn W. Preston Memorial Fund
Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation
Franklin Foundation
Hartford Foundation of Public Giving
iCivics & CivXNow
Liberty Bank Foundation
Napier Foundation
Northwest Community Bank Foundation
Northwest CT Community Foundation
R.S. Gernon Trust
Richard P. Garmany Fund
Scripps Family Foundation
Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area
William Caspar Graustein Fund

Community Partners



MAKING AN IMPACT!

Community Partners Program

Our **Community Partners Program** provides meaningful opportunities for the business community to align connect with the Connecticut Democracy Center which provides a lifetime pathway for people of all ages to become civically engaged. Rather than making numerous requests throughout the year, this outreach effort provides an easy way for businesses and organizations to raise their profile as a supporter of a range of CTDC programs and initiatives annually.



SPONSORSHIP LEVELS	Platinum \$25,000+	Gold \$15,000	Silver \$10,000	Bronze \$5,000	Benefactor \$2,500	Supporter \$1,000	Friend \$500
CTDC Awards	Pillar of Democracy	Liberty Leader	Constitutional Partner	Civic Champion	Civic Champion	Democracy Supporter	Democracy Supporter
Connecticut's Kid Governor®	Top Level Spoinсор	Top Level Sponsor	Second Level Sponsor	Second Level Sponsor	Third Level Sponsor	Third Level Sponsor	Fourth Level Sponsor
Connecticut History Day	Top Level Sponsor	Scond Level Sponsor	Second Level Sponsor	Third Level Sponsor	Third Level Sponsor	Fourth Level Sponsor	Fourth Level Sponsor
CT's Old State House Rental	✓	✓					
Private Historical Walking CT's OSH Tour	✓	✓	✓				
Website and Multimedia Recognition	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



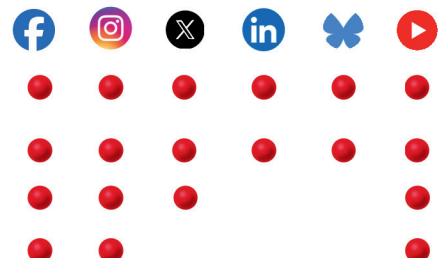
Follow & Like!

Profile

- Connecticut Democracy Center
- Connecticut's Old State House
- Connecticut History Day
- Connecticut's Kid Governor

Handle

- @CTDemocracyCenter
- @CTOldStateHouse
- @cthistoryday
- @CTKidGovernor





Mission Statement

The mission of the Connecticut Democracy Center is to **inspire** people of **all ages** to engage in **civic** life and **strengthen** their communities. We envision a society where **everyone** is empowered to **participate** in our democracy.



2025 Connecticut Democracy Center Awards Recipients



Inauguration of Connecticut's 2025 Kid Governor® and Cabinet

The Connecticut Democracy Center is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to fostering informed, engaged, and active citizenship. Through project-based educational programs and interactive conversations, we strive to inspire individuals to explore the lessons of history, deepen their understanding of civic responsibilities, and thoughtfully connect these insights to current issues. By encouraging meaningful dialogue and participation, we empower people of all ages to use their voices to drive positive change and strengthen our democratic system of self-government.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Paul Skaff

This past year has been nothing short of extraordinary for The Connecticut Democracy Center. From major milestones in our longstanding programs to the launch of exciting new initiatives, 2025 marked a period of growth, impact, and celebration. We proudly hosted our second annual Connecticut Democracy Center Awards, recognizing exceptional leaders in the community, business, and philanthropic sectors—individuals who exemplify citizenship, service, and civic engagement.

Nearly 10,000 fifth graders participated in the election of Connecticut's tenth Kid Governor, whose platform centered on school safety. Our Secondary Education Programs team sent its largest-ever delegation to the National History Day competition in Maryland. Over 20 students placing in the top 10 across eight categories—a record-breaking achievement for our state.

Building on this momentum, we were honored to be named the official Connecticut state coalition leader by CivXNow, a national initiative led by iCivics to advance civic education. This designation affirms our leadership in civics education and allows us to help shape national policy. During National Civic Learning Week, our educators highlighted Connecticut's innovation and commitment through a dynamic lineup of programs.

Looking ahead, we're actively preparing for the America 250 celebration and expanding our "Civics on the Road" initiative, bringing meaningful civic dialogue to communities across the state.

Our continued growth and success are made possible by an incredible network of volunteers, donors, Grantmakers, and community partners who believe in our Lifetime Pathway of programs—and in a future where everyone is empowered to participate in our democracy.

To all those who champion us — thank you. On behalf of our Board of Directors, professional staff, and the thousands of people we serve each year, your support means everything. If you're considering supporting the work of The Connecticut Democracy Center, we invite you to join us soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Skaff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Terry Mitchell Smith

If the past few years have taught us anything at all, it is that democracy is a fragile work in progress. I believe it has less to do with “left” or “right” ideology, but more to do with the life-long commitment we each have to the concept of the Great American Experiment, that we are all created equal in this republic, and have access to all the rights and freedoms enshrined in the United States Constitution.

The Connecticut Democracy Center’s foundational programs such as *Kid Governor*, *Connecticut History Day*, and *We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution* focus on engaging elementary, middle, and high school aged youth in the practice of civics. The CTDC believes that civic knowledge is power and our goal is to expand beyond the school yard and be an educational resource to all Connecticut residents.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Mitchell Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lifetime Pathway

Students K-12+ : Tours of Connecticut's Old State House

Students and citizens of any age can learn about Connecticut and American history from the tours and programs led by our engaging Museum Educators!



All Ages: Connecticut's Old State House Public Programs & Events

This historic site is open year round offering a wide array of programming including tours, lectures, exhibits, the annual Farmer's Market, Old State House Birthday Celebration, and Election Cake Bake-off.



Grade 5: Kid Governor®

A chance for 5th grade students across CT to run and vote in an authentic election to be the next Kid Governor®. This program teaches young people about elections and how to be civically engaged citizens.

Grades 6-12: Connecticut History Day

Engaging thousands of Connecticut students annually in project-based historical research, creative presentation, and competition as part of National History Day.





Connecticut Democracy Center Awards

Established in 2024, this annual awards ceremony pays tribute to community, business and philanthropic leaders who are committed to strengthening democracy through acts of citizenship, service, and community engagement



Grades 6-12: We The People: The Citizen and The Constitution

State & National competitions: featured simulated congressional hearings where high school students testify before a panel of judges acting as members of Congress.

Connecticut Network

The Connecticut Democracy Center's many programs create lifelong civically engaged citizens!

16+ : Connecticut Network

Students & citizens of all ages watch CT-N for unbiased, nonpartisan coverage of state government and public policy.



KID GOVERNOR®

Kid Governor® is our trailblazing civic education program that equips 5th graders with the knowledge and skills to be active citizens. It immerses them in a real election for their state's Kid Governor as they learn about state government, voting and civic engagement. The elected Kid Governor and their six Cabinet Members serve a one-year term of leadership, advancing their campaign platforms and inspiring their constituents to make a difference in their own communities. The Connecticut Democracy Center created Kid Governor® in 2015 and leads the Connecticut and national programs, with state affiliates in Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon and Vermont.



CT's 2025 Kid Governor Keudy

A Message from _____ Brain Cofrancesco, Director of Kid Governor®



“ This has been an exciting year for Kid Governor! In Connecticut, more than **10,400** fifth grade voters participated in November's Statewide Election, electing Keudy Martinez of Waterbury as their 2025 Kid Governor. Keudy's platform, *Speaking Up for Safe & Happy Schools*, addresses school safety, and he is working with his enthusiastic Cabinet Members to make a difference across the state.

This past winter, Lester Holt introduced the country to three of our National Kid Governors in a special feature on **NBC Nightly News: Kids Edition**. We also celebrated the program's expansion to two new states: Nebraska and Vermont. Now, this fall, thousands of fifth graders in six states will be immersed in civic learning as they elect their states' Kid Governors! ”

THEN & NOW



Elena Tipton
The First
Kid Governor



“ As Kid Governor, not only did I have the opportunity to passionately share my platform, but to **recognize the power of my voice** as a young-student. Nearly a decade later, participating in civics at a young age has fostered an immense sense of pride and confidence in my ideas, my ability to **advocate**, and my capacity to **listen** and **understand** a diverse range of opinions.

Opportunities continue to flow, leading me back into the Old State House. This past summer, I worked as an intern helping to develop the Kid Governor program to reach as many 5th graders as possible. It is my hopes to provide them the same experiences I had. Looking back I feel extremely privileged and wanted to work closely with the dedicated team that advocates to give students a voice. ”

STUDENT PARTICIPATION: BY THE NUMBERS

CONNECTICUT

10,453 registered student voters

362 registered teachers/classes

160 schools

57 nominees for Kid Governor

NATIONALLY (including Connecticut):

17,490 registered student voters

606 registered teachers/classes

137 nominees for Kid Governor

293 schools

Meet the 2025 Kid Governors



Keudy - Connecticut

Keudy, a 5th grader from Waterbury, Connecticut, is passionate about **school safety**. He ran on a three-point platform focused on creating safer, more supportive school environments. His goals include reducing bullying by encouraging students to support one another and report unsafe behavior; promoting the formation of mental health awareness clubs among 5th graders; introducing buddy systems to ensure no student feels alone. Outside of his campaign, Keudy enjoys playing football, spending time with friends, and learning new things. His cabinet members are Dawson, Dominic, Khloe, Nava, Ryan, and Warona.



Rosie - Oregon

Rosie is a 5th grader from Portland, Oregon, with a platform focused on fighting **climate change**. She urges Oregon citizens to ACT! "A" stands for Act at home—by reducing food waste, biking or walking instead of driving, and composting. "C" stands for Classroom conversations, encouraging students to hold class meetings to discuss ideas for addressing climate issues. "T" stands for Take time to share—spreading awareness and knowledge about climate change with others. Now that she's in office, Rosie and her cabinet run a blog where they share updates and information about their ongoing work. She is supported by her cabinet members: Saanvi, Teegan, Syon, Ryker, Jordyn, and Desmond.



Jade - New Hampshire

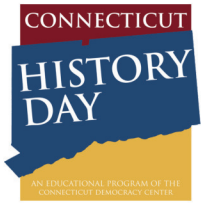
Jade is a passionate advocate for **animals**. When she saw how animals were being mistreated in her state she decided to take action. As a 5th grader from Harrisville, New Hampshire, Jade launched a platform focused on ending animal abuse and making New Hampshire the 13th state to ban animal testing. To tackle this issue, Jade proposed three key initiatives including encouraging kids across New Hampshire to purchase cruelty-free products; organizing a letter-writing campaign to urge the Governor's Office to take action against animal testing; and visiting schools throughout the state to educate students about animal cruelty, the importance of buying cruelty-free items, and how animals deserve to be treated. Her cabinet members include Grace, Ainsley, Vivian, Glen, Evelyn, and Jack.



Emma - Oklahoma

Emma, a 5th grader from Ardmore, Oklahoma, developed her platform around **improving education** in her state. Her focus areas included increasing funding and teacher salaries, enhancing reading and student literacy, and providing mentorship for at-risk students. She is supported by a strong team, including Lt. Governor Shawn, Secretary of State Lawson, and cabinet members Alburto, Clayton, Harper, Koda, and Ryan.

Coming in 2025: Nebraska and Vermont!



CONNECTICUT HISTORY DAY

Connecticut History Day, affiliate program of **National History Day**, engages thousands of middle and high school students in historical research, interpretation, and creative expression through project-based learning.

Students in grades 6-12 choose a topic, conduct research, and present their conclusions through papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, or websites. They can enter one of five regional competitions in hopes of making it to the statewide contest in the spring. The state competition is the culmination of months of intense study and project development with guidance and feedback from teachers and regional contest judges. Winners from the state competition are invited to represent Connecticut at the national competition in Maryland.



A Message from Rebecca Taber, Director of Secondary Education



“ Project-based learning allows students to build vital skills that they will use in their education, careers and as members of the community. We're thrilled to be expanding opportunities for secondary students at CTDC with the addition of the We The People program and the CTDC Debate Tournaments!

I am always inspired by the students who participate in Connecticut History Day. Their dedication, hard work, and creativity is truly amazing! This year, students explored a myriad of topics relating to the theme of Rights & Responsibilities in History ranging from local to national to international history. By participating in CHD, students are building vital skills that will prepare them for bright futures! ”

Connecticut placed as top 10 finishers in 11 of 18 categories at the 2025 National History Day Competition

Student testimonial

"CT History Day has given me a well-rounded positive impact in everything that I do daily, and I am extremely grateful to have been a part of it."

Teacher testimonial

"Connecticut offers great support and a fun environment for our students. From speaking with other participants, I can see that our state goes above and beyond!"



BY THE NUMBERS



CT students at National History Day

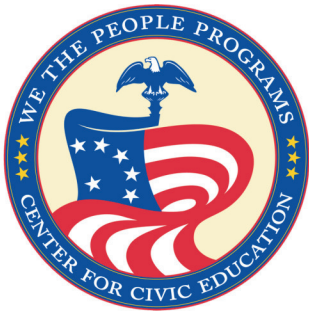
- 4,276** Connecticut student participated
- 997** Students participated in CT History Day Regional Contests
- 425** Students participated in the Statewide competition
- 201** CT History Day Workshops were held
- 2,265** Workshop student participants
- 411** Teachers participated in CT History Day Workshops
- 62** Connecticut students went on to compete at the National Contest

WE THE PEOPLE and CTDC DEBATE TOURNAMENT



Students participating in We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Competition

The Connecticut Democracy Center is proud to offer two secondary education programs that allow students to explore democracy, its fundamental principles, and Connecticut History.



We The People: The Citizen and the Constitution helps students learn about the United States government through classwork and independent research. The curriculum, developed by the Center for Civic Education, is an innovative course of instruction on the history and principles of the United States constitutional democratic republic. Participating students spend the fall and winter studying and researching the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The curriculum is divided into six units. Each class divides into groups of six to explore each unit and prepare for questioning.

During the simulated congressional hearings, judges evaluate the performance of students based on a set of criteria, including their understanding of the material, constitutional application, reasoning, ability to provide supporting evidence, responsiveness, and participation. Students winning state finals are invited to the National Competition in Washington D.C.

The Connecticut Democracy Center Debate Tournament hosted interscholastic team policy debate tournaments for middle and high school students focused on a Connecticut topic. Participating students form two person teams to debate both sides of a current topic. While participants receive preliminary resources, they are encouraged to conduct additional research to develop both negative and affirmative arguments, learn to cross examine their opposition, and listen attentively in order to rebut their opponent's arguments. Participation improves students' public speaking skills, ability to analyze issues and resources, and expertise in using evidence to support arguments.



Connecticut Democracy Center Awards

In March of 2025, we held our second annual award ceremony at Connecticut's Old State House. The CTDC awards celebrate Connecticut residents who are **committed to strengthening democracy through acts of citizenship, service and community engagement**. Guests enjoyed inspirational conversation and a champagne toast while networking with peers who are equally dedicated to improving the quality of life in Connecticut.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Karen Hobert Flynn
COMMUNITY LEADER AWARD

Pursuit Aerospace
in recognition of their social responsibility initiatives
BUSINESS LEADER AWARD

Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
MARY C. GAWLICKI
PHILANTHROPIC LEADER AWARD



CONNECTICUT DEMOCRACY CENTER AWARDS

CONNECTICUT'S OLD STATE HOUSE



Connecticut's Old State House is a historic landmark that once served as the state capitol and later housed Hartford's city council. Now, 229 years old as of May, it continues to be a hub for individuals passionate about civic engagement, Connecticut history and expanding their understanding of government and civic life. The Old State House offers a variety of opportunities to learn and explore through educational programs, guided tours, exhibits and special events held throughout the year, all centered around these important themes.

Connecticut's Old State House Public Programs

Throughout the year, we curate a tremendous calendar of in-person and virtual programs focusing on Connecticut history and civics.



800 Main Street, Downtown Hartford
STOP BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

REGISTER TO VOTE!

OPEN TO ALL CONNECTICUT RESIDENTS



HOW A.I. IS CHANGING GOVERNMENT

PRESENTED BY: 



2024-2025 Public Programs

Annual Events

- Connecticut's Kid Governor Inauguration
- Connecticut's Old State House Annual Birthday Celebration
- Election Cake Bake-Off
- First Night Hartford at Connecticut's Old State House
- Juneteenth Celebration at Connecticut's Old State House
- National Voter Registration Day
- Two Lights for Tomorrow - Day of Service

Collaborations

- Champion for Freedom: The Reverend Alexander Heritage Newton Story with the **New Haven Museum**
- Community Talk Back with the **CT Forum**
- Encounters - **UConn's Democracy & Dialogues Initiative**
- Finding Common Ground: A Nonpartisan Conversation with Former Members of Congress with **UConn**
- Historic Firsts: The 2024 Presidential Election with **UConn**
- Merchandising the Dead in 19th Century New England and Washington, D.C. with the **Ancient Burial Ground Assoc.**
- Our Voice, Our Power: Black Narratives from Black Descendants with **Discovering Amistad**
- Remembering the Innocent Victims of the Connecticut Witch Trials with the **CT Witch Trial Exoneration Project**
- Voices of Freedom at the Old State House with the **Holyoke Club**
- **Connecticut State Community College, Capital**

Program Series

A Night at the Public House Series

Civic Learning Week

Connecticut's Old State House Farmers Market

Connecticut's Old State House Holiday Shopping Fair

Connecticut's Old State House Summer Concert Series

Conversations at Noon at Connecticut's Old State House

Conversations at Noon on Connecticut's Freedom Trail

CTRL+Shift+Democracy: The Impact of Technology on Society & Government Series

Evening Conversations at Connecticut's Old State House Series

Fires, Floods & Acts of God: A Downtown Hartford Walking Tour

Landmark Legislation: Homefront Battles and the Creation of the 29th Regiment Connecticut Volunteers

Connecticut Network



For **26 years**, Connecticut Network, CT-N, has been Connecticut's source for **complete and balanced** television and webcast coverage of state government and public policy. We provide reliable access to **unbiased** information through state of the art technologies to **educate** and advance the public's understanding of **political processes** and the development of **public policy**.



CT-N produces over 2,000 hours of original content annually.

The Connecticut Network is a **24/7 television** and **web streaming service** providing daily coverage of the Connecticut General Assembly. During the legislative session, CT-N covers all **Senate** and **House** sessions along with **legislative committee proceedings**. CT-N also features Executive and Judicial Branch events, in-state congressional events, the electoral process, public interest programming and critical information during statewide emergencies.

Available on cable TV, Roku, and Fire TV, viewers can also visit CT-N.com to watch live web streams or access a video library featuring previously recorded programs. Closed captions are provided for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community as well as sign language interpretation when made available.



Leadership

Board of Directors

Andrew Giering

Assistant Federal Defender
Office of the Federal Defender for the
District of Connecticut

Alice Ross Gold - Treasurer

Owner (Retired)
Fleet Feet Sports

Jonathon Harris - Secretary

Director, Regulatory Affairs
Connecticut Eversource Energy

Michael Imber

Managing Director
Epiq

Deirdre A. O'Connor - Vice-Chair

Managing Director
Epiq

Suzanne Porcello

Senior Vice President P and Claim CFO
Travelers

Eric J. Rigoli

Attorney
Robinson + Cole

Anita Ford Saunders - Vice-Chair

Founder and Owner
Anita For Saunders Communications

Terry Mitchell Smith - Chair

Director of Marketing and Public Relations
Capital Region Development Authority

James W. Turner

Derivative Sales/Vice President
Webster Bank

Jonathon L. Wharton

Professor
Southern Connecticut State University

Senior Management Team

Paul Skaff

President & CEO

Sally Whipple

Exec. Director
Connecticut's Old State House

Dan Petrolito

Executive Director of Media Services

Matt LaCoille

Director of Development

Barbara Dell

Director of Marketing

Tom Paquette

Director of Information Technology

Brian Cofrancesco

Director of Kid Governor

Rebecca Taber

Director of Secondary Education

Jacob Orcutt

Director of Operations, CT's Old State House

Kirsten Faulkner

Office Manager



Financials

Statements of Financial Position
Ending June 30, 2025

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,113,963
Marketable securities	631,964
Accounts receivable	250,204
Inventory	4,072
Prepaid expenses and security deposits	12,014
Fixed assets, net	52,875
Right-of-use asset	-
	<hr/>
Total assets	\$ 2,065,092
	<hr/> <hr/>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 216,136
Refundable advances	2,000
Operating lease obligation	-
	<hr/>
Total liabilities	218,136
	<hr/>

Net assets:

Without donor restrictions	\$ 1,794,739
With donor restrictions	52,217
	<hr/>
Total net assets	1,846,956
	<hr/>
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 2,065,092
	<hr/> <hr/>



Financials

Cash Flow
Ending June 30, 2025

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Change in net assets	\$ 174,347
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net change in cash from operating activities:	
Depreciation	9,453
Amortization of right-of-use asset	22,897
Unrealized gains on marketable securities	(46,238)
(Increase)/decrease in assets:	
Accounts receivable	(144,476)
Inventory	(764)
Prepaid expenses and security deposits	8,542
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	23,279
Refundable advances	(12,620)
Operating lease liability	(23,263)
Net change in cash from operating activities	<u>11,157</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:	
Purchase of marketable securities	(80,331)
Purchases of property, equipment and improvements	(40,625)
Net change in cash from investing activities	<u>(120,956)</u>
Change in cash	(109,799)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>1,223,762</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>\$ 1,113,963</u>
Cash paid for amounts included in the measurement of lease liabilities	
Operating cash flows used for operating leases	<u>\$ 23,706</u>



Financials

Statements of Activities
Ending June 30, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Revenues:			
Contract revenue - CT-N	\$ 2,330,877	\$ -	\$ 2,330,877
Contract revenue - Connecticut's Old State House	314,650	-	314,650
Grants and donations	543,060	68,132	611,192
Old State House admissions and income	49,727	-	49,727
Other income	204,544	-	204,544
Release of restrictions	15,915	(15,915)	-
Total revenues	3,458,773	52,217	3,510,990
Expenses:			
Program services	2,828,417	-	2,828,417
Management and general	580,355	-	580,355
Fundraising	3,256	-	3,256
Total expenses	3,412,028	-	3,412,028
Change in net assets from operations	46,745	52,217	98,962
Non-operating revenue:			
Investment income/(loss), net	75,385	-	75,385
Total non-operating revenue	75,385	-	75,385
Change in net assets	122,130	52,217	174,347
Net assets, beginning of year	1,672,609	-	1,672,609
Net assets, end of year	\$ 1,794,739	\$ 52,217	\$ 1,846,956

Statements of Functional Expenses Ending June 30, 2025

	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Personnel	\$ 2,283,072	\$ 434,871	\$ -	\$ 2,717,943
Consultants and contractors	136,331	112,786	-	249,117
Operational and office	91,866	17,498	-	109,364
Other program	179,934	-	-	179,934
Marketing	57,408	-	-	57,408
Occupancy	71,799	13,676	-	85,475
Fundraising	-	-	3,256	3,256
Technology	66	12	-	78
Depreciation	7,941	1,512	-	9,453
Total expenses	\$ 2,828,417	\$ 580,355	\$ 3,256	\$ 3,412,028



BUSINESS OFFICE
21 Oak Street, Suite 309
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 246-1553

Connecticut's Old State House
800 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103
(860) 240-5340

ctdemocracycenter.org
ctoldstatehouse.org
historydayct.org
ct.kidgovernor.org

