

## Biography *William A. Hamzy*

State Representative William A. Hamzy takes pride in his service to the people of Bristol and Plymouth and his legislative achievements on behalf of the 78<sup>th</sup> District.

Recognized for his leadership abilities, Representative Hamzy was re-appointed by House Republican Leader Lawrence F. Cafero Jr., R-Norwalk, as one of his two Deputy Republican Leaders for the 2009 and 2010 legislative sessions.

Representative Hamzy served as a Deputy Republican Leader during the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions and as an Assistant Republican Leader in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006.

As a Deputy Leader, Representative Hamzy works directly with Representative Cafero in developing the House Republican Caucus' legislative agenda and strategy for enacting specific legislative initiatives during the 2009 – 2010 legislative sessions; helps ensure other caucus leaders understand and promote the caucus agenda with rank and file members; and participates in negotiations with House majority leaders and the Governor on the budget and other major bills.

Representative Hamzy also serves on the General Assembly's Judiciary, Banks, Energy & Technology, Executive & Legislative Nominations, and Regulations Review committees.

In May of 2008, Governor M. Jodi Rell signed into law a measure initiated by Representative Hamzy that allows family violence victims who fear for their safety to offer court testimony via videoconference rather than being forced to appear in person.

The measure received unanimous approval at all stages of the legislative process - from the Public Safety and Judiciary committees to the state House of Representatives and the state Senate.

Representative Hamzy submitted the legislation in response to the August 2007 murder of Jennifer Magnano of Terryville, who had fled the town on April 14, 2007 with her son and two daughters to escape an abusive relationship with her husband, Scott Magnano.

In July of 2007, Governor Rell signed into law another measure sponsored by Representative Hamzy that enabled the Ferreira Family of Plymouth to be compensated for attorneys' fees and costs they incurred for legal action relating to damages they suffered when they were exposed to MTBE that seeped into their well from a damaged underground gasoline storage tank located on a nearby property.

The legislation made it possible for the Ferreira Family to receive compensation from the state's Underground Storage Tank Fund.

Representative Hamzy also helped secure a variety of state grants for Bristol and Plymouth projects during the 2007 and 2008 legislative sessions. Among them were:

- \$10.7 million for the Route 72 extension project in Bristol and Plainville.
- \$400,000 to help pay for costs associated with capping and closing the Plymouth landfill.
- \$1,850,000 for various improvements to Route 229 to accommodate the Southeast Bristol Business Park.
- \$300,000 to help fund several streetscape improvements along Route 6 in Terryville.
- Two grants for Bristol Hospital, including \$750,000 to replace outdated equipment in the hospital's fluoroscopy / non-coronary angiography suite, and \$500,000 for the hospital's quality improvement program and for a strategic planning review that identifies optimal hospital service offerings in consideration of specialty services at other area hospitals.

- \$375,000 for the purchase and renovation of a Head Start facility in Bristol.
- \$16,773 for the Terryville Public Library to help pay for several upgrades to correct fire code violations.
- \$20,000 for heating, ventilation and air conditioning improvements at the Bristol Technical Education Center in Bristol.
- \$10,000 for the second phase of the playscape expansion project at the Plymouth Center School.
- \$407,455 to resurface a 1.84 mile stretch of Route 6 in Plymouth from Town Hill Road to the Bristol Town Line.
- \$71,904 for minor capital improvements at the Bristol Preschool Child Care Center on West Street.
- A \$90,837 grant for the Bristol Technical Education Center to pay for new computers and related equipment.

In 2005 and 2006, Representative Hamzy helped Bristol and Plymouth gain approval for several other important grants, including:

- Two grants totaling \$700,000 to pay for the construction of a water booster pump station at the Plymouth Business Park. The project has helped enhance the business park's marketability to potential employers and create more jobs.
- \$350,000 to help pay for the restoration of the historic Eli Terry water wheel and generator off Route 6 in Terryville.
- \$4,000,000 for a rehabilitation and renovation project at Rockwell Park in Bristol.

Several measures of importance to Bristol and Plymouth that were sponsored or cosponsored by Representative Hamzy were enacted during the 2005 and 2006 legislative sessions as well. They include:

- An act that allows municipalities to freeze property taxes for certain elderly persons. To be eligible for the benefit, homeowners or their spouses must be age 70 or older, have lived in the state for at least one year, and meet the same income limits that apply to the existing state-reimbursed "circuit breaker" program.
- A law that gives National Guard members ordered into active state service (such as riot control and disaster response) the more extensive civil and employment protections enjoyed by federal armed service members.
- Legislation that provides workers compensation benefits to members of the Connecticut National Guard when they are called to active duty.

During the 2004 legislative session, Representative Hamzy was appointed to the Select Committee of Inquiry, which investigated allegations concerning former Governor Rowland's acceptance of expensive gifts from state employees and from people who do business with the state. The committee was considering a possible impeachment recommendation at the time the governor resigned.

Democratic lawmakers at the state legislature honored state Representative William A. Hamzy as the 'Most Respected and Admired [legislator] on the Other Side of the Aisle' in a poll of his fellow legislators conducted by Connecticut Magazine in July, 2008

In addition, his colleagues in the state House of Representatives selected him as one of seven legislators who show “the best promise for the future” in a 1998 Connecticut Magazine poll,

Representative Hamzy was elected to his first term in the state House of Representatives Nov. 8, 1994. He was re-elected in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, and again in 2008.

Nationally, Representative Hamzy is the public sector chair of the American Legislative Exchange Council’s Telecommunications and Information Technology Task Force, which seeks to develop state public policy that preserves free-market principles, promotes competitive federalism, upholds deregulation efforts, and keeps the communications and technology industries free from new burdensome regulations.

The American Legislative Exchange Council works to advance the Jeffersonian principles of free markets, limited government, federalism, and individual liberty, through a nonpartisan public-private partnership of America’s state legislators, members of the private sector, the federal government, and the general public.

He is a 1984 graduate of Terryville High School. He received a B.A. in political science from the University of Connecticut in 1988. He received his J.D. in 1992 from Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, N. H. He is a partner with the law firm Hamzy & Conlin of Bristol.

Representative Hamzy serves on a variety of local panels and is actively involved in community affairs.

He is a member of the Plymouth Republican Town Committee (1992-present) and is a past town committee secretary. Representative Hamzy is a member of the Terryville Fire Department’s Deferred Compensation Board and a former member of the Plymouth Board of Fire Commissioners.

Representative Hamzy is a member of the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce and the Terryville Polish-American Political Club. He is a former member of the Terryville Rotary Club and the West Central Connecticut United Way Board of Directors.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Bristol Bar Association and the Connecticut Bar Association.

He is a member of the Bristol Federal Hill Association; the Friends of the Terryville Public Library and the Friends of the Bristol Public Library.

Representative Hamzy is a former Bidy Basketball coach. He also coached Babe Ruth baseball for 12 years. He was a member of the 1983 Terryville High School state championship basketball team. He was co-captain of the 1984 state championship basketball team.

He and his wife Anita live in Terryville. They are the proud parents of a son, Zachary William, and a daughter, Gabriella Nicole.