

Stoneham MA Chamber of Commerce

From: Rep. Jason Lewis [jlewis@cte.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Jason Lewis [jason.lewis@state.ma.us]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 12:21 PM
To: sharon@stonehamchamber.org
Subject: July Newsletter: Ethics Reform, Saving the Zoos



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Delivering Government Reforms

Dear Friends,

I hope you're enjoying the summer despite the seemingly endless rain.

We wrapped up June by passing a sweeping ethics, lobbying, and campaign finance reform bill. Together with pension and transportation reforms previously enacted, this represents the most significant change on Beacon Hill in decades.

The legislature also passed the Fiscal Year 2010 budget in late June. This budget includes more than \$2 billion in spending cuts due to the precipitous drop in tax revenues caused by the ongoing global recession.

Governor Patrick then exercised his line item veto power to further reduce or eliminate funding for a number of programs, including the Franklin Park and Stone Zoos. The zoos are a unique cultural resource that greatly benefits our communities, and [I've been working hard to build support for a veto override](#) that would restore the funding. I'm hopeful that we can find a way to save the Franklin Park and Stone Zoos.

Best Wishes,

Jason Lewis
State Representative

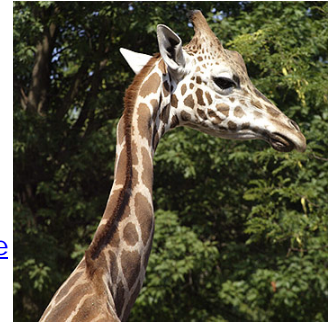
Ethics and Lobbying Reform

In late June, the legislature passed a final ethics, lobbying and campaign finance reform bill. It was quickly signed into law by Governor Patrick. This bill is tough, uncompromising, and sets a very high bar, as it should, for the actions of our public officials. It includes a ban on all gifts to public officials, tightens lobbying rules, increases penalties for violations, and strengthens enforcement. [You can read more here.](#)



Saving the Zoos

Unfortunately, much of the media coverage of the zoo crisis has suggested that the choice is between "people versus animals." This is simply not true. The Franklin Park and Stone Zoos attracted a record 569,000 visitors last year from all over the world. The zoos are an economic engine for our state, provide an affordable destination for families, a living classroom for children, and a source of life-changing jobs for many young people and people with disabilities. You can [read more about the fight to save the zoos](#), as well as a recent [op-ed I wrote on this issue](#).



Tri-Community Bikeway

The Tri-Community Bikeway is a proposed six mile pedestrian and bicycle path that would connect the communities of Winchester, Woburn, and Stoneham. The bikeway would offer new recreational opportunities, provide an environmentally friendly means of transportation, and promote economic development. The planning and design stage of the project is underway, and we are [working to secure the necessary construction funding](#). We will need continued advocacy and lots of hard work in the years ahead to make this exciting project a reality.



Upcoming Events

Business Roundtable with Rep. Lewis

Thurs, Aug 6, 12:00-1:30pm

Gaetano's Restaurant (271 Main St, Stoneham)

Lunch will be served

This is the second of two roundtable discussions that we've organized to discuss the challenges facing our local businesses and ways to promote business development. If you are a small business owner, please join us to share your feedback and ideas. You can [RSVP by email](#) or call 617 722-2060.

Contact Info and Office Hours

I welcome your input, ideas, and questions. Also, if you are in need of assistance, please

don't hesitate to contact my office. We will do our best to help you.

I can be reached at (617) 722-2060 or [by email](#).

Upcoming Office Hours

Fri, Aug 14, 10am-12pm, Winchester Public Library (Small Meeting Room)

Anybody is welcome to stop by.

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