

Kevin Rennie: CT Won't Improve If You Vote For Democrats

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The presidential campaign circus continues to divert attention from contests that will determine Connecticut's future. Many voters discouraged by the firm choices the two major parties have put before us will be tempted to stay home on Nov. 8. Don't do it. There's too much at stake in Connecticut.

Some startling numbers tell the tale. Last month, Connecticut lost 5,200 jobs. That's the fifth time in six months there's been a drop in the number of people working in the state. September's decline was the worst. It may be worse. Last year, the state's Department of Labor overestimated the number of new jobs in the state by more than 100 percent with no satisfactory explanation for the year of blunders. Connecticut is one of the few states that has yet to recover the jobs lost in the recession that ended in 2009.

The state's current budget may or may not end in a deficit. No one seems sure, which in state government talk just before an election means there's probably not enough money coming in but no one wants to admit it. Whatever this year's deficit may be, it will pale in comparison to what awaits us.

The next two years will see our leaders grapple with deficits of as much as \$3 billion. Democratic legislative campaigns this year suggest a zombie apocalypse has taken over their party. The [Democrats](#) seeking re-election want you to believe they have had no hand in the bad decisions of the past two, four or six years. They certainly do not want to talk about the next storm of deficits.

Those two historic tax increases in the past five years? They want nothing to do with those, either. Instead, the Democrats embrace bipartisanship. They love working with the [Republicans](#) scattered about the Capitol village, they declare. But they don't. When the deal is done, the Republicans and their ideas are shut out of the secret negotiations and the Democrats begin to do their damage. Then they reveal their plan, whip party members into line and cement more bad decisions into law — sometimes in the middle of the night or as dawn breaks.

The next two years will bring more than deficits. If the past is any indication of the future, we know there will be expensive crony capitalism deals for corporations paid for by cuts to the poorest and most needy among us, especially in addiction and mental health services.

The Democrats, led by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy, will continue to push for billions more of taxpayer money for transportation projects. The same bunglers who cannot figure out a proper schedule to prevent portable toilets from overflowing at a highway rest stop want to start replacing highways with massive blank checks from us. Someone has to say "no."

The grand plans for a \$500 million transportation center in Stamford are in a

shambles more than three years after being unveiled. Donors connected to the development team gave more than \$150,000 to a state Democratic fund used for Malloy's 2014 re-election campaign. Legislative Democrats remain silent. Here's another number: \$325,000 paid to keep campaign finance communications secret.

You look at your own legislators and think they are nice, friendly people. You are likely right. They enjoy attending local events. I bet they love to talk. But in almost every case, if they are Democrats, they went along with the tax increases and other policies that are chasing jobs and people out of Connecticut. When the moment came to make a difference, to try to stop the decline, that cheerful Democrat you see around town probably did the wrong thing in Hartford.

They are not going to want to tell you before you vote on Nov. 8 what they plan to do about that \$3 billion in deficits. They won't want to explain why the rainy day fund is almost empty as another deluge approaches. They flee in terror if you ask why he or she has been such a loyal Malloy supporter.

There is no easy or quick way out of Connecticut's troubles. But there are ways to stop making the problems worse. Elect some more Republicans to the legislature who will say no to the policies that are causing so much misery. Connecticut can get better, but only if you vote.

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