



Caucus Leadership

Sen. Craig Miner
Sen. Cathy Osten

Rep. Patrick Boyd
Rep. David Wilson

CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS

The bipartisan and bicameral Connecticut Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus formed in October of 2003 and was one of the original 21 caucuses to unite under the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses umbrella, having joined in December of 2004. Brad Rowse, CSF's first dedicated state affairs manager, worked to educate Connecticut legislators throughout much of 2003, culminating in a Connecticut Sportsman-Legislator Summit at the Bristol Fish & Game Club on October 17, 2003 in which plans to launch the Caucus were solidified. During this meeting, State Representative Kenneth Del Gobo rose to make the formal recommendation that the Caucus be established. His recommendation was unanimously and enthusiastically approved. Currently, the Caucus is Co-Chaired by Senators Craig Miner and Cathy Osten, and Representatives Patrick Boyd and David Wilson, and has 36 members. Previously, Senator Miner also served as an elected member of the NASC Executive Council. The Caucus hosts meetings throughout the year, using these opportunities to discuss upcoming and current sportsmen's policies. In 2019, the Caucus hosted a game meat tasting reception, which served as an opportunity for those who are unfamiliar with the taste of wild game to experience many different recipes, while also learning about the historic role that sportsmen and women have held as the primary source of state-level conservation funding through the American System of Conservation Funding. The Connecticut Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus serves as the stewards of protecting and advancing pro-sportsmen's policies in the Nutmeg State.

Policy Highlights

- In 2015, the Caucus championed legislation (HB 6034) that was signed into law, authorizing Sunday archery hunting for deer on private lands in deer management zones that had been deemed overpopulated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
- Following the passage of HB 6034, the Caucus spearheaded legislation (HB 5360) in 2018 which expanded the Sunday archery hunting allowances for deer on private property, ultimately authorizing it throughout the state.
- The Caucus continuously fights against attempts to implement egregious excise taxes on ammunition, as well as other fronts for curbing some of our nation's most time-honored sporting traditions.

Economic Impact and Conservation Funding

- Hunters and anglers support 10,753 jobs in Connecticut, nearly as many as Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, the state's largest employer (10,753 vs. 11,000).
- Spending by sportsmen and women in Connecticut generated \$90 million in state and local taxes in 2011 - that's enough to support the average salaries of 1,444 police and sheriff's patrol officers.

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