



Erick Russell

CONNECTICUT STATE TREASURER

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INAUGURAL CONNECTICUT INVESTOR CONFERENCE, HOSTED BY GOVERNOR NED LAMONT AND STATE TREASURER ERICK RUSSELL, ATTRACTS HUNDREDS OF INVESTMENT PROFESSIONALS TO HARTFORD

HARTFORD, Conn. – Governor Ned Lamont and State Treasurer Erick Russell co-hosted the Inaugural Connecticut Investor Conference on Tuesday at the Connecticut Convention Center. The conference was organized to spotlight the many opportunities for bond investment in the state, and it attracted nearly 300 attendees from across the country.

"Our state is in a new era of economic growth and fiscal stability, and investors are taking notice," said **Governor Lamont**. "At a time when people are moving into our state, and our finances are uniquely stable, Connecticut is also making investments now in clean energy, housing, infrastructure, and in our communities that have us well-positioned for future success. I'm glad that we had the opportunity to update institutional investors on our progress and ask them to join us in investing in the future of Connecticut."

"Connecticut has an amazing story to tell," said **Treasurer Russell**. "We're reaping the rewards of smart fiscal policy and a culture of budgetary discipline throughout state government. It was the perfect time to bring investors together at our first-ever Investor Conference to hear about the progress our state has made, and the ongoing initiatives that will shape our future. With a full Rainy Day Fund, record budget surpluses, a demonstrated commitment to address our pension liabilities, and upgrades to our credit – including one just last week – there's never been a better time to invest in Connecticut."

Financial professionals in attendance included institutional investors, bankers, municipal financial advisors, credit rating analysts, and representatives from bond investment firms.

Mark Rayha, Vice President & CFO of General Dynamics Electric Boat, gave a keynote speech on the company's "once-in-a-generation expansion" that is expected to include the hiring of thousands of new workers and provide an economic jolt to Eastern Connecticut.

The conference was cosponsored by Connecticut's other bond-issuing entities, The Connecticut Airport Authority, The Connecticut Green Bank, The Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, and The Metropolitan District Commission. Leaders from each group, along with other experts in and around state government, participated in panels held throughout the day meant to inform the investors in the audience about the state's ongoing projects and initiatives, as well as provide an update on state finances.

- A panel on Connecticut's response to climate change featured Katie Dykes, Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; Bryan Garcia, CEO of the Connecticut Green Bank; Scott Jellison, CEO of the Metropolitan District Commission; and Monica Reid, founder and CEO of Kestrel.
- A discussion focused on affordable housing was held with Nandini Natarajan, CEO of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority; Seila Mosquera-Bruno, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Housing; and Alexandra Daum, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development.
- An in-depth review of Connecticut's Fiscal Guardrails was moderated by Treasurer Russell and featured Rep. Matt Ritter, Connecticut Speaker of the House; Rep. Vincent Candelora, Connecticut House Minority Leader; and Jeffrey Beckham, OPM Secretary.
- The final panel of the day provided an update on developments in Connecticut's transportation infrastructure with Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation; Michael Shea, Deputy Executive Director/CFO of the Connecticut Airport Authority; and Sen. Christine Cohen, Co-Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Also in attendance were 20 students who are juniors and seniors from Middletown, Newington, Ridgefield, South Windsor, Wilton, and Windsor High Schools and members of the Future Business Leaders of America. They were able to sit among the investment professionals throughout the program and gain valuable firsthand insight on business, finance and investing.

The conference was strategically timed to provide key information and insight to the attending bond investors in advance of Connecticut's \$710 million General Obligation Bond offering during the week of May 29, 2023. For more information on the State of Connecticut's bonding programs, visit buyCTbonds.com.

About the Office of the Treasurer

The Office of the Treasurer is charged with safeguarding Connecticut's financial resources through prudent cash and debt management, with the State Treasurer serving as principal fiduciary for six

state pension and nine state trust funds. Additionally, the Office enhances the state's fiscal stability through programs promoting financial literacy and college savings, and it leverages business partnerships to support the advancement of Connecticut's social and policy priorities, including combating gun violence and protecting our environment. The Office of the Treasurer is led by State Treasurer Erick Russell, the only Black elected state treasurer in the country. To learn more, visit portal.ct.gov/ott.

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