

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2012

Worst Governor in America?



Surprise! He's a Democrat

From the [Hartford Courant](#), "Libertarian Cato Institute Gives Gov. Malloy Failing Grade": After pushing through the largest tax increase in Connecticut history last year, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy this week received an "F" in fiscal policy from a libertarian think tank. The nationally known Cato Institute issued an "F" to five governors in its 11th biennial fiscal policy "report card." That rating touched off a round of partisan clashes in Connecticut regarding the results.



The Cato Institute report stated that Malloy signed into law a "huge \$1.8 billion tax increase, which increased the top individual income tax rate from 6.5 to 6.7 percent, the top corporate tax rate from 8.25 to 9.0 percent, and the sales tax rate from 6.0 to 6.35 percent. The governor also increased hotel taxes, luxury goods taxes, online sales taxes, alcohol taxes, and the state death tax."

Connecticut Republicans respond

Malloy, a Democrat, received the lowest possible grade, along with the governors of Illinois, Hawaii, Washington, and Minnesota. The highest grades - for those who cut taxes and spending - went to the governors of Florida, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Maine.

"I think he's at the bottom of the heap," Republican state Sen. Andrew Roraback said of Malloy. "It's no surprise."

Roraback, who is running for Congress against Democrat Elizabeth Esty, has been sharply critical of Malloy for his views on taxes and spending. As a member of the 10-member State

Bond Commission, Roraback has voted against various proposals by Malloy, who chairs the bond commission and sets the agenda.

J.R. Romano, the state director of the Connecticut branch of Americans For Prosperity, said, "Unfortunately, for those of us living and paying taxes in the state, Governor Malloy's failing grade on fiscal policy comes as no surprise. His tenure as governor is a testament of how to run businesses and individual taxpayers alike out of this state with over-the-top taxes and out-of-control spending."