

COMMENTARY

CONNECTICUT POST

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EDITORIALS

Governor restored dignity to the state

When she stepped into the breach as the 87th governor of Connecticut in 2004, even M. Jodi Rell's most ardent admirers must have wondered if she had the stuff to put the state back on its two feet and vent the stench of corruption from the halls of Hartford.

Or would this soft-spoken, homespun woman, a long-time legislator from Brookfield and long-serving lieutenant governor, be merely a pliable caretaker for two years and move along?

THE ISSUE

Gov. M. Jodi Rell will not seek re-election next year.

OUR TAKE

Rell has walked the walk, bringing a sense of ethics, openness and transparency to government.

As her predecessor, former running mate and boss, John G. Rowland, served his 10-month federal prison sentence for turning the governor's office into his personal procurement center, Rell set out to rehabilitate the credibility of the office and of

Today, hours after her announcement she will not run for re-election next year, even Rell's toughest critics would have to concede this unassuming woman not only had the stuff but wielded it with quiet determination and purpose to restore dignity to the operations of Connecticut government.

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WHAT'S THAT GIRL ?? STOP OBAMA?? BLOCK HEALTH-REFORM... OPPOSE GLOBAL WARMING LEGISLATION... YOU WANT ME TO ENACT MY ENTIRE SOCIAL AGENDA...



Property taxes nearly curtailed Black Rock sale

I am writing regarding the front page article in the Nov. 7 edition regarding the sale of former Congressman Chris Shays' home in Black Rock. My wife Mary and I are the new owners of the home and we are looking forward to moving into it.

Current annual property taxes are about \$31,600, which is more than 2 percent of the fair market value of the home. This is a shocking level and is over twice the

percentage that we currently pay on our Mt. Vernon, Va., home, where we have public schools that are among the best in the country. Bridgeport's property tax levels are so high that we had to think long and hard before we finally decided to purchase the home.

Bridgeport is at a tipping point in connection with its property tax levels. Steps must be taken to promote economic development and

constrain government spending. Property tax percentages must not be allowed to increase over current levels and steps need to be taken to reduce them over time.

As the immediate past comptroller general of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, I can assure you that Mary and I will fight to promote greater transparency and account-

ability in order to make these goals a reality. Finally, we discovered immediately after our home closing that the city of Bridgeport does not have an information packet for new residents. Hopefully this embarrassment will be remedied soon.

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