



CONNECTICUT VETOES BY GOVERNOR

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ISSUE

Describe vetoes by Connecticut governors since 1971, when the legislature began annual sessions.

SUMMARY

Sections 15 and 16 of Article Fourth of the Connecticut Constitution authorize the governor to veto bills. The governor may veto an entire bill or use a line-item veto on any bill's appropriation provisions while still approving the rest of the bill.

Since 1971, Connecticut governors have vetoed 615 public acts, and the legislature has overridden vetoes 55 times. Eight of these vetoes have been line-item vetoes.

Pre 1994 OLR veto reports are available from the Legislative Library. Subsequent OLR veto reports are linked to this report.

VETOES BY GOVERNOR

Governor Thomas J. Meskill (1971-1975)

Governor Meskill vetoed 255 public acts, 11 of which were overridden. This total does not include the line item veto in HB 8022, 1972 September Special Session, which was invalidated by *Caldwell v. Meskill*, 164 Conn. 299 (1973).

Governor Ella Grasso (1975-1980)

Governor Grasso vetoed 102 public acts, 10 of which were overridden.

Governor William A. O'Neill (1980-1991)

Governor O'Neill vetoed 66 public acts, none of which was overridden.



Governor Lowell Weicker (1991-1995)

Governor Weicker vetoed 51 public acts, 17 of which were overridden (see OLR veto report for the [1994](#) session).

Governor John G. Rowland (1995-2004)

Governor Rowland vetoed 38 public acts, none of which was overridden (see OLR veto reports for the [1995](#), [1996](#), [1997](#), [1998](#), [1999](#), [2000](#), [2001](#), [2002](#), [2003](#), and [2004](#) sessions).

Governor M. Jodi Rell (2004-2011)

Governor Rell vetoed 64 public acts, 17 of which were overridden. This total does not include [PA 09-03](#), 2009 June Special Session. Gov. Rell returned [PA 09-03](#) without her signature, but with a line-item veto. According to former Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, the state constitution permits a line-item veto only on a signed bill. Following Blumenthal's opinion, Rell withdrew the veto (see OLR veto reports for the [2005](#), [2005](#) October Special Session, [2006](#), [2007](#), [2008](#), [2009](#), and [2010](#) sessions).

Governor Dannel P. Malloy (2011-2015)

To date, Governor Malloy has vetoed 39 public acts, none of which has been overridden (see OLR veto reports for the [2011](#), [2012](#), [2013](#), [2014](#), and [2015](#) sessions).

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