



Testimony of Commissioner Michelle Gilman

Commissioner of Administrative Services

Appropriations Committee

February 13, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Somers, Representative Nuccio, and distinguished members of the Committee. I am Michelle Gilman, the Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (“DAS”). I would like to give you a brief overview of DAS and some significant elements of the governor’s proposed biennial FY 2026-2027 budget. I welcome any questions you may have.

DAS is organized into nine functional areas that report to the Commissioner: Human Resources, Equal Employment Opportunity, Communications, Real Estate and Construction, Bureau of Information Technology Solutions, Internal Audit, Procurement Services, Business Office, and Legal & Legislative. Within these functional areas, DAS houses a number of distinct programs that comprise the business functions of state government, including information technology, human resources, procurement, facilities and real estate, construction services, fleet, workers compensation, collection services, school building project grants, HVAC grants, and more. Our divisions are united in a common mission:

- **Support Connecticut's Growth**—To serve our citizens, businesses, state agencies, and other branches of government by providing the highest quality services at the lowest possible cost.
- **Drive Continuous Innovation**—Using best practices from the public and private sectors, increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state government.
- **Provide Rewarding Careers** - To attract and retain a workforce of talented, dedicated public servants committed to leading our great state forward.

The Governor’s proposed biennial budget authorizes an “all funds” appropriation of \$319,247,949 for FY 2026 and FY 2027. This is an increase of approximately \$74.3 million from the estimated FY 2025 total. The reallocation of funds primarily drives this increase to complete the IT optimization initiative.

The proposed biennial budget authorizes DAS to have 1,097 General Fund positions in FY 2026 and FY 2027. This is a net increase of 156 in DAS’s General Fund position count compared to FY 2025. The majority of these positions reflect the movement of IT employees into DAS from other agencies (specifically, the Departments of Children and Families, Developmental Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Social Services, and the Office of Health Strategy). Five of these positions will continue to support our digital government initiatives.

DAS is appreciative of the addition of these five positions in this critical area. These positions will support and maintain the ongoing digital government capabilities in use by multiple agencies, including supporting the critical platforms on which the State of Connecticut interfaces with businesses and members of the public, such as Business One Stop, Business.ct.gov, Health.ct.gov, Jobs.ct.gov, and the DMV website.

In addition, the budget includes a \$9.3 million increase in IT services funding in each fiscal year to reflect contractual increases and the shifting of costs from bond funds to the DAS operating budget as the technology becomes operationalized. The majority of this increase will support costs associated with the statewide Microsoft 365 contract. Technology expenditures, such as this one, continue to grow, and is multiplied by increasing technology use in our state agencies. To reduce the impact of these rising costs, DAS uses shared resources, leverages large, enterprise-wide contract negotiations, and builds technology skills for our state employees.

DAS's Bureau of Information Technology Solutions (BITS) team also prioritizes the state to safely harness technology in areas that improve efficiency, protect our data, and keep state employees in the decision-making process. DAS protects executive branch agencies and municipalities from existing and emerging cyber threats by, for example, guiding the first wave of the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant program, which provided federal grant funds to help municipalities and schools reduce their cybersecurity risk. DAS/BITS has worked closely with the Office of Policy and Management to develop a comprehensive Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy for state agencies and made public sector-specific AI training available to state employees. Finally, DAS/BITS worked collaboratively with the departments of Social Services, Housing, and the Office of Early Childhood to bring new technology to our first state Opportunity Center to enable virtual visits, appointment scheduling and interagency collaboration.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.