



It is a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session is now in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

I'm proud to have worked on a budget that delivers historic tax cuts and increases funding for students, families, and our most vulnerable residents, while paying down our long-term debt, including an additional \$2.072 billion in unfunded future pension liability. Additionally, we deposited \$3.3 billion into the Rainy Day Fund, keeping our credit ratings high and preparing us for any potential economic downturn. This fiscal responsibility and continued adherence to financial guardrails helped us receive a mid-May credit rating increase to AA+ from Kroll.

Most importantly, we did it by working together - without gimmicks or partisan politics. We prioritized education, supported non-profits, and invested in public safety without the fighting you see in Washington.

I'd love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on any of the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,
Jill Barry

Jill Barry

NEW LAWS IN CT: A YEAR IN REVIEW

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE JILL BARRY

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

Representative Jill Barry
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT 2023 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JILL BARRY
PROUDLY SERVING GLASTONBURY



- 860-240-8500
- Jill.Barry@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Barry
- facebook.com/RepBarry31





OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES

HISTORIC TAX CUTS

A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:



CUTTING YOUR TAXES

- Reduces the state income tax by lowering the 5.0% rate to 4.5% and the 3.0% rate to 2.0% for the income year 2024. The benefits will be capped at \$150,000 for single filers and \$300,000 for joint filers.
- Eliminates even more retirement income taxes by smoothing the benefit cliff for those with pension, annuity, and IRA income - giving relief to those making more than \$75k (single filers)/\$100k (joint filers) to up to \$100k/\$150k.
- Responds to inflation by freezing scheduled increases on the diesel tax - helping lower the cost of groceries and other commodities (\$37.2m).
- Cuts fuel taxes on airlines - keeping fares stable, growing the number of destinations, and making us more competitive with our neighboring states.



IDD SUPPORTS

- Invested **over \$30M to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals.**
- Addressed agency waiting lists for services.
- Bolstered employment opportunities.
- Increased Husky C eligibility.
- Broke down silos for better coordination and data collection.



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

- Granted free graduate school tuition to eligible veterans and their families, as well as active members of the National Guard.
- Expanded eligibility of state services to members of the Space Force.
- Eased licensing requirements for childcare providers who serve military families.
- Established funding and benefits for firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer.

SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Established a new coordinator of state services for people with dementia.
- Strengthened patients' involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints.
- Expanded eligibility for seniors to participate in adult day services (serving those with early onset dementia).
- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services like primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals.
- Increased funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels.
- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed.
- Required homemaker companion companies to provide notice to their clients before they abruptly close and prohibited any increases in rates without at least a 60-day notice.

SUPPORTING WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

- Required full disclosure of hidden fees on small business loans, ensured access to judicial hearings in a dispute, and required any loan offers to be good for at least three days.
- Permanently allowed restaurants to sell alcohol for off-site consumption.
- Supported CT farm wineries by allowing them to open up to three retail locations.
- Cut business taxes to promote expansion of childcare facilities.
- Cut the number of reporting requirements for businesses.
- Allowed towns to accept electronic signatures from contractors - helping streamline local government and business permitting.

MAKING CT SAFER

- Expanded GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders.
- Made it illegal for adults to solicit photos and videos from kids online, even if they're not explicitly sexual.
- Required trained EMTs to carry and use EpiPens.
- Required driver's ed classes to cover driving under the influence of cannabis.
- Created electronic notifications for expiring gun permits.
- Allowed a municipality's police chief, or the chief's designee, to request police assistance from another municipality for a period up to 24 hours.

