

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session was defined by the need to protect Connecticut’s economy and working families amid ongoing national instability. At the same time, we took on critical priorities including strengthening our elections, investing in public education, and passing a responsible state budget.

We made historic investments in police, fire, EMS, veterans, teachers, and health care workers. Voters demanded better access to absentee ballots, and we ensured their voices were heard.

It was a three-month legislative session, and we got a lot done. This newsletter has more details about the legislation we passed and key policy initiatives from the 2026 session.

It continues to be an honor and a privilege to serve you all.

All My Best,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
AIMEE BERGER-GIRVALO
PROUDLY SERVING RIDGEFIELD

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

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**CAPITOL
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FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
AIMEE BERGER-GIRVALO
PROUDLY SERVING RIDGEFIELD



SUPPORTING MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOLS

- \$190 million in additional direct support for schools
- Increased supplemental education funding for cities and towns
- Better balanced our energy targets with fiscal realities, including pushing out EV school bus deadlines
- Requires DOT to give priority under the traffic signal modernization grant program to projects located in heavily congested areas

AFFORDABILITY

- Expanded sales tax-free week to include clothing, shoes and backpacks under \$300
- Created a family caregiver tax credit for residents caring for a loved one
- Made banks apply mortgage overpayments to the principal instead of prepaying interest
- Banned surveillance pricing in stores and on most delivery apps
- Required car dealerships to advertise the all-in price of the car, including conveyance fees. We also protected consumer data so that car dealers won't be required to give your data to car manufacturers

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

- Strengthened state audits of Medicaid rates at nursing homes
- Required staff at assisted living agencies to receive annual training on residents' fear of retaliation, so seniors can freely speak up about their care, and ensured a resident's right to set up cameras in their rooms to stay connected with family and monitor their care
- Required nursing homes with 5% or more investor ownership to disclose detailed ownership and financial information every year, to mitigate the implementation of cost-cutting changes that hurt residents and leave families in the lurch when a facility suddenly closes

REGULATING AI AND PROTECTING YOUR DATA

- Required AI bots to detect self-harm and violence, and that they disclose to users that they're communicating with an AI bot, not a human
- Started a "Connecticut AI Academy" with free online courses and best practices
- Strengthened protections around facial recognition technology
- Safeguarded financial information and added fraud protections
- Restricted how law enforcement agencies and other public agencies may use Automatic License Plate Reader systems or associated data

FUNDING FOR RIDGEFIELD

Representing Ridgefield is a privilege, and when I work with my colleagues on the state budget, it is always top of mind.

This year, we secured:

\$2,069,538 in total funding

\$970,979 in municipal grants

\$568,700 in education funding

PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

- Improved access to vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults, and required private insurance companies to cover the cost when you get vaccinated
- Developed a toolkit to assist health care providers with diagnosing and treating the symptoms of menopause, perimenopause, and post-menopause
- Created statewide training for our local inland wetlands commissions
- Developed a rapid-response program for addressing hydrilla and other invasive species plaguing our waterways – through faster permitting and expedited protocols
- Clean Energy: incentivized the development of solar canopies and energy-efficient heat and cooling systems, while boosting clean tech initiatives
- Green Economy: Promoted the growth of sustainable business sectors and invested in workforce training and development

TAKING PUBLIC SAFETY SERIOUSLY

- Banned convertible pistols – firearms that can be modified to work just like an automatic machine gun – often using a simple household item like a screwdriver
- Made it easier to surrender firearms to local police (existing law only applies to assault weapons)
- Created an interagency council to coordinate child safety and timely intervention
- Better coordinated state efforts to protect our IDD population – requires sharing of reports and cases of abuse and neglect, while adding additional training and support for families and caregivers

