

Dear Neighbor,

It is such a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from an extraordinarily productive 2023 legislative session.

I'm proud to have worked on and supported a bipartisan budget that delivers historic tax cuts and increases funding for our students, families, and most vulnerable residents, while still paying off over \$2 billion in unfunded future pension obligations and building our Rainy Day Fund. Reaching across the aisle, we prioritized education, supported nonprofits, and invested in public safety without the bickering that's become so ingrained in our national politics.

As co-chair of the Government Administration & Elections Committee and the Reproductive Rights Caucus, I was proud to lead on some of our most important legislation, including passing Early Voting, sending No-Excuse Absentee Voting to the voters for approval in 2024, the Connecticut Voting Rights Act, and building on our nation-leading 2022 Reproductive Freedom Defense Act.

As always, I'd love to hear from you with your questions or comments. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

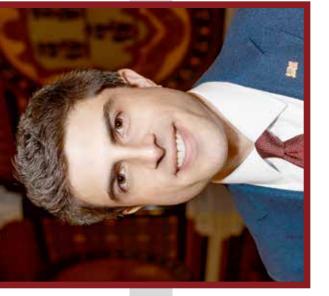
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# **CAPITOL UPDATE 2023**

# FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE **MATT BLUMENTHAL**

## **PROUDLY SERVING STAMFORD**



860-240-8585 Matt.Blumenthal@cga.ct.gov @MattBlumenthalCT @Matt\_Blumenthal @MattBlumenthalCT





# **2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- \$30,709,480 in total municipal dollars for Stamford next year
- \$17,145,212 in Education Cost Sharing for Stamford next year
- Biggest Income Tax Cut in CT History
- Maintaining Fiscal Discipline
- Eliminating The Retirement Tax
- Strengthening Regulation of Public Utilities by bolstering PURA oversight and prohibiting utilities from passing lobbying and marketing expenses on to ratepayers

# **STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY**

- Authored and led passage of Connecticut's first program of Early Voting, providing 14 days of early voting for general elections, 7 for primaries, and 4 before special elections and presidential primaries.
- Led passage of a resolution for a constitutional amendment to allow No-Excuse Absentee Voting.
- Authored and helped lead passage of the John R. Lewis Connecticut Voting Rights Act.
- Reformed and strengthened our state's Freedom of Information Act.

# **PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS**

- Passed nation-leading legislation **protecting data privacy**, including by protecting **consumer health data**, prohibiting **geolocation**, and **regulating targeted advertising to kids**.
- **Increased access to contraception** allowing pharmacists to prescribe and guaranteeing access to birth control and emergency contraception.
- Required state colleges and universities to **provide reproductive** health resources to students.
- **Prohibited insurance discrimination** against fertility patients based on LGBTQ status or age.
- Strengthened our nation-leading **2022 Reproductive Freedom Defense Act** by **protecting healthcare providers** from attacks on their licenses, malpractice insurance, privileges and credentials because they provide reproductive health care.

# **INCREASING PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Formed a special police task force to **protect kids against abuse online.**
- Increased protections for seniors against scams.
- Strengthened our **bans on ghost guns and assault weapons**.
- Restricted **open carry and bulk purchases of handguns.**
- Expanded firearms safe-storage requirements.
- Boosted access to opioid antagonists like Narcan to prevent overdose deaths.









#### **OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES**

# HISTORIC TAX CUTS

### A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:

### **CUTTING YOUR TAXES**

Our budget includes the **largest Personal Income Tax cut in CT history** by cutting marginal income tax rates, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, capping mill rates, and eliminating even more retirement income taxes.

### **INDUSTRY GROWTH**

Our budget **supports CT's growing industries** such as childcare, manufacturing, adult-use cannabis, and media, film and theater production.

### **INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS**

Our budget **invests over \$240M in public education** by stabilizing our state colleges and universities, expanding debt-free community college, fully funding our schools and local boards of education, and increasing scholarships and student debt relief.

### **SAFETY NET SERVICES**

Our budget expands Temporary Family Assistance, increases Husky C eligibility, provides funds to community action agencies for residents facing immediate economic hardship, supports the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and increases Medicaid rate reimbursements for providers and specialists.

### **IDD SUPPORTS**

Our budget **invests over \$30M to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals** by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, increasing Husky C eligibility, and breaking down silos for better coordination and data collection.