

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session focused on protecting Connecticut from the wildly chaotic economy being whiplashed daily by the Trump Administration, as well as other big issues like elections, standing up for working families, funding our schools, and the 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. We know that property taxes are too high, so we made sure every city and town received more state funding with the direction to lower mill rates if possible.

It was a three-month legislative session, and we had mountains to move. This newsletter has more details about the legislation we passed and key policy initiatives from the 2026 session.

Enjoy,



CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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CAPITOL UPDATE 2026



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARCUS BROWN
PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT



WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:

- Expanded sales tax-free week to include clothing, shoes, and backpacks under \$300
- Made basic school supplies tax-free, including backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, and paper
- Created a family caregiver tax credit for residents caring for a loved one
- Invested in our workforce and residents



FUNDING FOR BRIDGEPORT

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

This year we secured:

\$25 MILLION
in new money to our Board of Education

\$300 MILLION
to support Early Childhood Education Endowment

\$75 MILLION
to build a new John Winthrop elementary School

\$300,000
to support our Bridgeport Non-Profits

PROTECTING VULNERABLE CHILDREN

- Prioritized placing children with family members and responsible adults who are already in their lives
- Made sure there's follow-up with sister agencies when foster children move out of state
- Directed DCF to listen to other children in the house when there's an open investigation
- Provided robust resources for parents and our DCF workforce

TAKING PUBLIC SAFETY SERIOUSLY

- Toughened penalties for gift card scams
- Improved fire safety with better local planning for fire prevention
- Suspended licenses for people who continue to illegally pass school buses
- Stronger penalties for driving offenses in work zones

