



Dear Neighbor,

I am proud to share some historic highlights from the 2022 legislative session.

Historic like more than \$650 million in tax cuts. Historic like our investment in the mental health of our children. Historic like our commitment to growing jobs and our economy. Historic like a state budget that pays off over a billion dollars in pension debt, expands our rainy day fund to a record \$3.1 billion, and invests in Middletown's schools, mental health, public safety - all while honoring the spending cap.

That's not to say we aren't facing challenges. We are seeing inflation that hits everyone's wallets and housing prices that are pricing many out of even modest homes. That's why I fought hard to provide you with relief: increasing the property tax credit, phasing out taxes on retirement income, creating a child tax rebate, cutting the gas tax and more.

I am a firm believer that we need systemic and lasting tax reform in this state. The middle and working classes are overtaxed and pay a disproportionate amount of their income in state and local taxes compared to the wealthiest residents. I promise to continue working towards the goal of making our tax system fair by providing permanent relief to the working people of this state.

I hope you find this newsletter packed with useful information. It is my pleasure to serve as your state representative.

All my best,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**BRANDON CHAFEE**

PROUDLY SERVING MIDDLETOWN

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**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2022**

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**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2022**

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## 2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children’s Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes for Working People
- Keeping CT Safe with Juvenile Justice Reform
- Making CT More Affordable for Residents
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT’s Future Fiscal Integrity

## CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansions of school-based health centers and the services they provide
- Initiated a new position at the Healthcare Advocate to help families navigate care for children and adolescents
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Established state oversight and coordination of state response to kids’ mental health needs
- Expanded mentorship opportunities
- Helped school-based health centers develop new mental health programming
- Assisted local schools in expanding mental health staff and access to care
- Provided mental health training to parents, students, and pediatricians

# I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

# \$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✔ Creates a Child Tax Credit
- ✔ Cuts property taxes for retirees
- ✔ Cuts the car tax
- ✔ Extends the gas tax cut
- ✔ Extends free bus service
- ✔ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✔ Invests in healthcare workers



## STANDING UP FOR WORKERS

- Toughened the penalty for public contractors who under-pay or withhold wages and benefits, created a public registry for these individuals, and established a process for revoking the licenses of repeat offenders
- Helped front-line, private sector workers access premium pay if they were certain essential employees who had to work through the pandemic
- Expanded access to special relief funding for specific front-line workers who had to work during COVID and became sick as a result
- Protected the rights of employees by prohibiting employers from requiring their employees to attend meetings solely to listen to the employer’s views on politics or religion

## GROWING CT’S ECONOMY

- Lowered the business tax rate for unemployment insurance, effectively making the federal loan repayment for the coming year on behalf of businesses
- Established JobsCT program – helping companies in target industries earn rebates against insurance premiums and state taxes for meeting job targets
- Supported CT residents with CDL training
- Made direct investments in community nonprofits
- Helped community providers keep up with inflation
- Provided support to museums, theaters, and other CT attractions
- Created additional student loan assistance programs

## ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

- Created a public health reporting system for homeowners who have an abundance of salt in their drinking water
- Expanded state farmland restoration programming to include climate-smart farming and forestry practices
- Set a goal of reaching zero greenhouse gas emissions from electricity supplied to you by 2040
- Expanded financing to develop zero emission vehicle infrastructure, build more solar power and fuel cells, and reinforce our electric grid against the effects of climate change
- Expanded eligibility for participation in the state’s brownfield remediation program to include companies who lease a property with an intent to own. This will expand our efforts to help cities and towns address their brownfields
- Supported developing carbon-neutral plans for new transportation projects
- Explored new waste management programming
- Sped up the timeline for the electrification of the state fleet of vehicles
- Made it easier for renters and condo owners to install electric chargers