

Affordability and working to lower the costs my constituents face was my top priority this past session. Through the hard work of the Middletown delegation, we secured a historic \$5 million increase in education and municipal aid. This should prevent steep cuts that were proposed to our school system, and hopefully hold off on any significant property tax increases from the City.

Middletown will receive an extra \$2,408,965 in municipal aid, and an additional \$2,656,038 in education funding for the next two years. This budget also makes a \$323 million deposit for the childcare endowment that I helped establish last year. Once this fund is up and running, early childcare will be free in our state for families making under \$100,000 per year, and costs will be capped at 7% of income for those making more.

This budget is the best I've seen in six years for delivering town aid. Although I am grateful for this funding, the fact remains the state can and should be doing much more to support our residents and towns. This newsletter has more details about the major pieces of legislation I worked on, and additional funding that I received for our community.

Enjoy,

Brandon Chafee



TAX SAVINGS FOR OLDER VEHICLES

Vehicles 20 years and older will now be assessed at no more than \$500 bringing considerable savings to those with older vehicles. The assessment value is the value assigned to the vehicle for taxing purposes.

The bill I wrote will fix the assessment value at \$500 or 15% of the original MSRP (whichever value is less) for cars 20 years or older. Under our current car tax mil rate of 31.70, this will cap the car tax at \$15.85 per year! Next year I plan to introduce legislation to apply this valuation to cars 15 years and older.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BRANDON CHAFEE
PROUDLY SERVING MIDDLETOWN

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 26**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRANDON CHAFEE

CAPITOL UPDATE 2026



VOTING LAW MODERNIZATION AND UNIVERSAL MAIL IN VOTING

- Modernized our absentee ballot laws and vote counting procedures
- Created more safeguards to ensure your vote counts
- Protected our elections from corrupt outside forces
- Established universal mail in voting for all who wish to vote by mail



BIG WINS FOR MIDDLETOWN

- ✓ Russell Library - \$50,000 to continue the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program that provides free books to children up to age 5
- ✓ Middlesex YMCA - \$50,000 to offer free swim lessons and summer camp opportunities to children
- ✓ Amazing Grace Food Pantry - \$25,000
- ✓ Oddfellows Playhouse - \$10,000
- ✓ Extra \$2,408,965 in municipal aid, and an additional \$2,656,038 in education funding for Middletown



AI REGULATION

The legislature passed SB 4, which includes my surveillance-pricing ban. This is a wide-ranging bill regulating data brokers, establishing an accessible deletion mechanism for your personal data, and prohibits the use of surveillance pricing by retail establishments in this state.

Imagine if the grocery store charged you more for milk because they know you have small children, or if a pharmacy charged you more because you need a specific medication or device to help your ailments. Some stores are beginning to use AI technology and doing just that. This practice will now be prohibited in CT for all retail sellers and third party delivery services.

Under this bill, websites will also need to post a disclaimer:
“THIS PRICE WAS INCREASED BY A PRICE SETTING DEVICE USING YOUR PERSONAL DATA.”



HOLDING ALL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE

This year we protected the rights of Connecticut residents from increased federal abuse and overreach:

- Allowed residents to sue ICE agents when their constitutional rights are violated
- Empowered our attorney general and Inspector General to intervene on behalf of our residents
- Created a statewide ban on federal agents wearing masks
- Banned federal troops from coming to Connecticut against our wishes
- Strengthened minimum training standards for local police

WORKER PROTECTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT - HB5003

This bill makes targeted, meaningful investments in the people who keep our communities strong – from first responders and veterans, to nurses, teachers, and trade workers

- Provided state health insurance to the families of volunteer firefighters and state marshals who lost their life in the line of duty
- Expanded a successful program that partners police with mental health workers
- Required all job postings to disclose the salary range and benefits offered for the position to ensure workers go into negotiations with the information they need

