



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 millions in pension debt and continues our record rainy day fund while investing in Branford, schools, mental health, public safety, and programs that work - 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 childcare rebate, cutting the gas tax and more.

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

Best,

2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children's Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Keeping CT Safe with Juvenile Justice Reform
- Bolstering Reproductive Freedoms
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROBIN COMEY

PROUDLY SERVING BRANFORD

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2022



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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

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

- Guaranteed CT veterans in-state tuition rates
- Adopted higher department equipment standards, collecting better data on the prevalence of cancer among firefighters, and secured more local funding for firefighters who leave service with a cancer diagnosis
- Provided funding to local volunteer fire departments who respond to emergencies on certain state highways
- Established a new, local-option property tax exemption equal to 10% of home values for more veterans

LEADING OUR KIDS PAST THE PANDEMIC AND TO PROMISING FUTURES

- 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
- Created new walk-ins for mental health emergencies
- Designated 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
- Helped school-based health centers develop new mental health programming
- Provided mental health training to parents, students, and pediatricians



JUVENILE CRIME INITIATIVE

RESPONDED TO JUVENILE CRIME, AUTO THEFTS & PANDEMIC-RELATED CRIME DIVERSION:

- Invested in Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- Expanded alternatives to incarceration

KEEPING THE PUBLIC SAFE:

- Expanded hands-on training for police
- Addressed laboratory and case backlogs
- Expanded use of GPS monitoring
- Toughened penalties for vehicle thefts
- Created more crisis training for our police
- Funded state and local task forces to address gun violence & auto thefts



EDUCATION & EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

- Increased funding for infant and toddler care programs
- Increased pay to childcare workers to attract and retain more educators
- Expanded successful Birth to Three Program
- Approved state tax credit for childcare
- Ensured teachers get an uninterrupted 30 minutes for lunch
- Expanded scholarships for minority teachers

FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE & PROTECTING CT'S ENVIRONMENT

- Created a public health reporting system for homeowners with an abundance of salt in their drinking water
- 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
- Expanded sophisticated testing of shellfish
- Invested in repopulating native salmon and eel populations
- Explored new waste management programming
- Created new incentives for consumer and commercial electric vehicles
- Developed a Small Harbor Improvement Projects Account to fund dredging projects