



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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

I am proud to have worked on a budget that delivers historic tax cuts and increased funding for Hamden, our students, families, and our most vulnerable residents, while paying down the state's long-term debt, including an additional \$2 billion in future pension liability.

Most importantly, we did it by working together – without gimmicks or partisan politics. We prioritized education, supported non-profits, and invested in public safety without the fighting you see in Washington.

I would love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on any of the information or initiatives shared in this update.

Thank you. I wish you all a healthy, enjoyable end of summer and great start to the fall season!

STATE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Largest income tax cut in CT history
- Cut more taxes on retirement income
- Historic funding for schools
- Massive deposit into Rainy Day Fund
- Pays down debt saving taxpayers money
- Modern voting system with early voting
- Invest in growing healthcare workforce



2023  
CAPITOL NEWS

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CAPITOL NEWS 2023  
FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE D'AGOSTINO

PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

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2023



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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES THE

# LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✓ \$600 million middle class tax cut
- ✓ Reduces the state income tax rate of 5.0% to 4.5% and the 3.0% rate to 2.0% for 2024
- ✓ One million tax filers will benefit from the rate cuts – nearly 60% of all filers
- ✓ 82% of the tax benefit will go to filers making less than \$150,000
- ✓ Expands retirement income tax relief to those making up to \$100,000 for single filers and \$150,000 for joint filers



## LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BILLS WE PASSED

Scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit [tinyurl.com/bddrbfpb](https://tinyurl.com/bddrbfpb)



## GOOD NEWS FOR HAMDEN

### \$5.4 million for Hamden Arts & Cultural Center

This funding will enable the town to demolish the long abandoned old Hamden Middle School – a site that has sat vacant for more than 20 years and become a dangerous eyesore. This is the first step to make vital improvements to the Newhall neighborhood and build an Arts and Cultural Center that will provide numerous art, historic, educational programs and town services.

### \$2 million for Sleeping Giant Park

This bonding will fund improvements to the main parking area heavily damaged in a 2018 storm. Projects will also include trail improvements, signage, bathroom facilities, roadway work, tree planting, and other park amenities. Work is also being planned with the Sleeping Giant Park Association on a new visitor center that will help visitors with maps and park orientation.

### \$1 million for Foundation Repair

Funding was authorized as a part of the legislature's bond package to make certain properties in Hamden with structurally deficient foundations eligible for remediation or relocation of displaced property owners.



## INCREASED STATE AID FOR HAMDEN

The state budget we adopted included more funding for local schools, special education, and PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes), which is key to holding the line on local property taxes. Our state budget also included funding to keep the property tax cap on motor vehicles at 32.46 mills.

### Education Funding (Estimated)

FY 24: \$34,895,170  
(\$2M Increase over FY 23)

FY 25: \$39,453,743  
(\$6.5M Increase over FY 23)

### Total State Aid (Estimated)

FY 24: \$58,832,886  
(\$7.2M increase over FY 23)

FY 25: \$63,393,610  
(\$11.8M increase over FY 23)



## LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

### Implementing Early Voting

Provides voting opportunities 14 days before Election Day for general elections, 7 days before most primaries, and 4 days before special elections and the Presidential primary.

### Pedestrian and Traffic Safety

We adopted recommendations of the Vision Zero Council. Municipalities can apply to the state DOT to place traffic enforcement cameras around schools, pedestrian zones and dangerous intersections. The fines have a maximum of \$50 for the 1st and \$75 for the 2nd offense. Revenue from the tickets must be used to improve roadway safety in that municipality.

### Historic Community Investments

Our budget invests over \$30M to better serve the Intellectual and Developmental Disability community by addressing waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities and breaking down barriers for better coordination of services.

