



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This will be the last mailer you receive from me. After twelve years representing you in the General Assembly, and thirteen years previously serving on the Hamden Board of Education, I have decided not to run for re-election this Fall. It was not an easy decision. I truly love everything about being your elected representative, from helping people navigate the labyrinth of government bureaucracy in order to get the help they need, to delivering tens of millions in state aid and bonding to the town. But we are a citizen legislature, rather than a full time one – and after twenty-five years of being an elected official, I am looking forward to continuing to serve the people of Hamden and Connecticut in other ways.

Given this, we have designed this newsletter to serve as an epilogue: reviewing some of the important accomplishments your Hamden delegation has achieved during my time in office. As always, we also review the recent legislative session, during which we preserved the largest tax cuts in state history, ensured more retirement income would be tax exempt, stabilized funding for higher education and nonprofits, and banned dog racing in the state (an important “pet” project to me).

On behalf of my wife Kate, and my intrepid legislative staff – including my aide Jason Knight, who provided unwavering assistance to many of you – I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Providing Quality Care for Seniors
- Protecting Historic Tax Cuts
- Making Childcare More Affordable and Accessible
- Ensuring CT’s Future Fiscal Stability



STATE REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL D'AGOSTINO

PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



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GETTING RESULTS

MILLIONS IN FUNDING FOR HAMDEN

SIGNIFICANT STATE BONDING WE HAVE SECURED TO HELP TRANSFORM AND GROW OUR COMMUNITY

- \$5.4 million for the demolition of the former Hamden Middle School and prepare development for a new Arts and Cultural Center
- \$8.6 million to build a new Fire Station and ongoing efforts to fund a new Emergency Operations Center to improve public safety for all
- \$8.6 million for an Affordable Housing Development on State Street with 64 new units and pedestrian and streetscape improvements
- \$1.35 million to renovate the Keefe Center which provides many essential town services
- \$4 million to help remediate foundations and homes in Newhall built on a landfill with poor soil
- \$5 million in bonding to transform the former Newhall Community Center into a new Small Business Incubator Hub
- More than \$33.5 million for renovations to our elementary schools, including West Woods, Shepherd Glen, and Alice Peck
- \$500,000 in bond funding to build a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy
- \$2 million for Sleeping Giant Park to fund improvements to and repair damage from a 2018 storm

TOP PRIORITIES FOR HAMDEN

When I got elected in 2012, one of my principal objectives was to increase state funding for Hamden, both for our schools and to replace the lost tax revenue from university owned land (Quinnipiac does not pay local taxes). We did that. In particular, I fought every year for increases to the ECS funds that go to our schools. In my 12 years in office, Hamden has received more than \$342 million in total ECS funding – a 45 percent increase from my first year to last year.

This money has helped Hamden stabilize its finances and achieve bond rating increases in each of the past three years. In this year’s state budget, Hamden will receive more than \$19.1 million in increased state aid for FY 24 and FY 25. This includes \$8.5 million more in education aid.

2024 LEGISLATIVE NEWSBRIEFS

Seniors Made it easier for seniors to age in place and increased community-based services.

Education Invested in teachers, assistant teachers, paraeducators, and state-funded school readiness programs and childcare programs

Environment Banned products containing dangerous PFAS chemicals

GREYHOUND RACING BAN

This year, we finally passed this ban into law. For anyone who owns pets, it’s not very hard for you to understand they are very much a part of your family. For me that was my dog, Vella. She passed away right before the bill passed, but I am glad we got to do this in her memory and in the memory of other rescue dogs.



REMEMBERING PETER VILLANO

Peter Villano served as Hamden’s 91st District state representative before me. He passed away this year, at the age of 100 years old. Peter’s life epitomized public service. He served as Hamden’s mayor, from 1981 to 1985 and was the state representative from Hamden for 20 years, from 1991 to 2011. It was an honor to succeed him in that role, but I could never fill his shoes. He was a mentor to many, a friend to more, and a public servant to all.

DEFENDING OUR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

During my tenure, I have had the privilege of supporting the cause of hardworking union employees many times on the House floor. Whether it’s our SEIU 1199 healthcare workers who take care of us, police officers and DOT workers who keep us safe, or employees with the Attorney General’s office or state universities who bring into the state millions in settlements or grants - I have led the floor debate in approving each public employee contract since 2017. These agreements have saved the state billions of dollars in higher health co-pays and increased pension contributions. They have also included targeted wage increases in the past few years to make sure we continue to attract a top-notch quality state workforce. The combined savings and pension reforms in these contracts have taken us out of a perpetual fiscal crisis and have put the state on a much better financial path.

