

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session focused on protecting Connecticut from the wildly chaotic economy being whiplashed daily by the Trump administration, as well as other big issues like elections, standing up for working families, funding our schools, and the state budget.

We made historic investments in police, fire, EMS, veterans, teachers, and health care workers. Voters demanded better access to absentee ballots, and we ensured their voices were heard. We know that property taxes are too high, so we made sure every city and town received more state funding with the direction to lower mill rates, if possible.

It was a three-month legislative session, and we had mountains to move. I was proud of my accomplishments as House Chair of the Government Oversight Committee, leading the effort of crafting legislation around Human Trafficking prevention efforts. This newsletter has more details about the legislation we passed and key policy initiatives from the 2026 session.

I hope you find this newsletter informative. Please reach out if you have any questions or issues.

Kind regards,

Lucy



MODERNIZING HEALTHCARE

- Required health insurers to highlight changes to their prescription drug coverage during their open enrollment periods
- Required private insurance to cover: PANS/PANDAS, athletic prosthetics, scalp cooling and expanded infertility diagnosis and treatment
- Streamlined the use of electronic insurance documents and notices
- Created a state registry of insurance agents that were fired for cause
- Required insurance coverage for pharmacists’ clinical services
- Advanced plans for captive insurance to assist our nonprofits struggling to find liability coverage



STATE REPRESENTATIVE LUCY DATHAN

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CAPITOL UPDATE 26

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK AND NEW CANAAN

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE LUCY DATHAN

CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

BIG WINS FOR A MORE AFFORDABLE CONNECTICUT

Significant Investments to Support Affordability:

- \$190 million in public education for 2026-2027 school year
- \$1.1 billion in pension debt liability payments
- \$320 million for early childhood endowment
- \$100 million to mitigate local tax increases
- \$12 million to establish universal free school breakfast programs across the state
- Expanded grants for successful special education programs



ENSURED ELECTION INTEGRITY

- Provided \$3.25 million for early voting and voter information campaigns
- Allocated funds for new universal no-excuse absentee voting
- Replaced the confusing second envelope with a more reliable bar code system
- Set up a system to check the status of your absentee ballot online

PROTECTED YOUR DATA RIGHTS

- Prohibited companies from selling your precise geolocation data
- Expanded consumer rights to delete your data
- Strengthened protections around facial recognition technology
- Regulated companies that buy and sell your data and created financial penalties for abuse

SAFEGUARDED DEMOCRACY

- Protected Connecticut residents from ICE overreach and abuse
- Safeguarded personal and traffic camera data from immigration enforcement
- Banned masked federal agents and strengthened police accountability
- Supported new gun safety measures, including banning convertible pistols

PROTECTED YOUR FAMILY

- Limited children's ability to access social media platforms that use personalized algorithms
- Strengthened our regulations around vape sales
- Toughened the ban on running gambling ads targeted at kids

INVESTED IN CLEAN ENERGY

- Standardized solar program rules and tariff structures across renewable programs to make participation easier and more predictable
- Overhauled state-backed solar with an emphasis on storage, allowing residents to keep and use more of the energy they make without having to sell it to the grid

COMBATTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Expanded enforcement tools to help crack down on trafficking activity
- Strengthened protections for victims of exploitation and abuse
- Increased oversight and accountability standards for hotels and lodging establishments

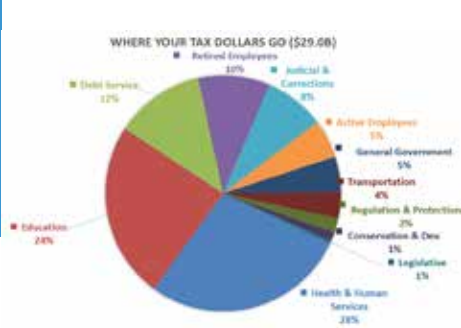
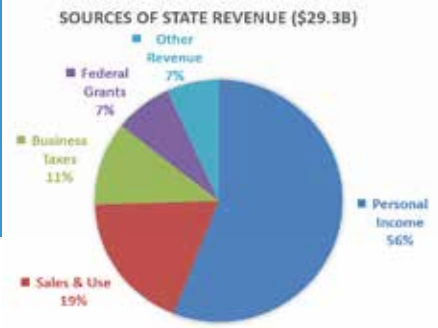
CT HOUSE DEMOCRATS FINALIZE RESPONSIBLE BIPARTISAN BUDGET

THANKS TO SOUND BUDGETING AND THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WE:

- Made historic investments in education and town aid

WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:

- Expanded sales tax-free week to include clothing, shoes and backpacks under \$300
- Made basic school supplies tax-free, including backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers and paper
- Created a family caregiver tax credit for residents caring for a loved one
- Approved new technology for towns to conduct property assessments - savings towns time and money



TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT

- As Chair of the Government Oversight Committee, I led passage of The Earmark Transparency Act to increase transparency and accountability for legislative earmarks. The bill:
 - Requires clear documentation of who receives earmarked funds and how the money will be used
 - Strengthens oversight and reporting requirements for funding recipients
 - Helps ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and transparently