

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **MIKE DEMICCO**

Dear Neighbor,

The 2023 session of the Connecticut General Assembly saw significant achievements for the state of Connecticut, and for Farmington in particular. The biennial state budget allows for up to \$42 million in state reimbursement for the new Farmington High School, and maintains Farmington's high level of municipal grants, education grants, and Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes from the state.

We passed legislation to introduce and fund early voting, expand the environmental justice law, increase aid to education, expand services for intellectually and developmentally disabled residents, protect reproductive rights, protect electricity consumers, enhance gun safety measures, protect tenants and landlords, and enhance vehicle and pedestrian safety.

It is an honor to represent the residents of Farmington and Unionville in the General Assembly. I am always available to listen to your concerns, benefit from your ideas, and offer assistance. Please feel free to contact me directly at 860-240-8545, or mike.demicco@cga.ct.gov.

Best,



Mike Demicco



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE DEMICCO

PROUDLY SERVING FARMINGTON & UNIONVILLE

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023



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GUN SAFETY

Public Act 23-53 restricts the “open carry” of weapons; closes existing loopholes regarding “ghost guns;” limits handgun purchases to 3 per month; requires safe storage and trigger locks for guns; and expands the ban on assault weapons.

HOUSING

Public Act 23-207 increases the fine for unsafe or unsanitary rental properties to \$2,000; requires landlords to offer walk-throughs prior to signing a lease; requires a more timely return of security deposits; and caps late fees for past due rent payments.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Public Act 23-116 allows municipalities, by local ordinance, to use “speed cameras” and “red light cameras” with the approval of the Department of Transportation, in order to enforce traffic laws. In addition, “wrong way” alerts will be installed on selected highway exit ramps.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Public Act 23-41 directs all state college and university campuses to provide reproductive health resources to students. Public Act 23-127 prohibits insurers from discriminating between patients based on gender identity or expression regarding coverage for infertility treatment. Public Act 23-128 protects pharmacists and health care providers who are licensed in other states from discipline when they provide reproductive health services in Connecticut.

FARMINGTON IN THE STATE BUDGET

The biennial state budget allows for up to \$42 million in state funds for the new Farmington High School.

TAX CUTS, TAX CREDITS, BUDGET SURPLUS

We passed the largest income tax cut in state history: \$600 million in cuts which will benefit approximately 80% of taxpayers earning under \$150,000.

We maintained the property tax credit and smoothed the income tax “cliff” for retirees who earn pension income.

We maintained funding for vital public services, paid down significantly on our unfunded liabilities, put a record amount of money into the “Rainy Day” Fund, and ultimately ended with a surplus.

EDUCATION

The biennial state budget (PA 23-204) makes significant increases in Education Cost Sharing allocations for towns, state charter school funding, magnet school funding, and the Open Choice program. In addition, we raised the starting age for kindergarten from age 5 by January of the school year to age 5 by September of the school year, in response to concerns about varied developmental levels in kindergarten.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Public Act 23-204 expands the “debt-free” community college program to include subsidies for students returning to college. It also establishes a student loan forgiveness program for students who meet certain criteria. Public Act 23-70 provides student loan subsidies for paraeducators, school counselors, police, and EMS personnel. Public Act 23- 60 provides lower state-backed loan re-financing rates for nurses.

BEARS

Public Act 23-77 allows for the killing of bears in self-defense; permits the taking of nuisance wildlife (including bears) under specific limited circumstances; and prohibits the intentional feeding of dangerous animals on private property.

ENVIRONMENT

Public Act 23-202 allows for permitting requests regarding factories, waste plants, and other emitting entities to be restricted or denied, when proposed in “environmental justice” communities. Public Act 23-170 establishes a “recycled content” requirement for certain plastic beverage containers; allows towns to identify additional recyclable solid wastes for diversion out of the waste stream; and allows DEEP to enter into agreements to manage municipal solid waste. Public Act 23-62 establishes a state-wide stewardship program to manage (collect, re-sell, or recycle) discarded tires.

INTELLECTUALLY AND DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Public Act 23-137 requires the Department of Developmental Services to develop plans for a Transitional Life Skills College program; identify employment assistance programs for persons with disabilities; and recommend financial incentives for businesses to employ persons with disabilities. In addition, the law requires a reduction in “waiting lists” for services; and an evaluation of whether an Intelligence Quotient (IQ) should be a factor in new statutory definitions for IDD.

VOTING

Public Act 23-5 establishes a framework for early, in-person voting for elections and primaries, beginning in 2024. Also, we adopted anti-discrimination laws regarding voting; and we approved a resolution allowing voters to decide (in November 2024) whether we should have “no excuse” absentee ballots.

SENIORS

Public Act 23-161 protects seniors from financial exploitation by allowing banks and credit unions to temporarily suspend suspicious transactions. Other legislation establishes a new coordinator of state services for people with dementia; strengthens patient’s involvement in homemaker care plans; and increases funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels.