

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DEMICCO

Dear Neighbor,

The 2024 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. In addition, we received \$430,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for projects including: pickleball courts and clubhouse improvements at the Westwoods Recreation Complex, a new Dial-A-Ride bus for seniors, and improvements to Town Hall. The budget maintains and increases Farmington's high level of municipal grants, education grants, and Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes from the state.

We passed legislation to protect seniors receiving both home health care and nursing home services, expanded access to early childhood care and higher education, enhanced the integrity of our voting procedures, expanded the "Paid Sick Leave" law, improved housing opportunities and tenant protections, enhanced insurance coverage for telehealth services, expanded services for the deaf, provided more property tax relief options to towns, improved services for wheelchair users and others with disabilities, and enhanced safety on our roads and highways.

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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AGING IN PLACE

Public Act 24-39 requires the Dept. of Social Services to maintain a “home care provider registry,” to enable Medicaid recipients to access qualified home- and community-based services.

NURSING HOMES

PA 24-141 authorizes the Dept. of Public Health to take disciplinary action against nursing homes that fail to comply with corrective action plans.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

PA 24-78 makes the Office of Early Childhood responsible for operating a state-funded early care and education system that provides open access for infants and toddlers and pre-school age children to high quality programs.

HIGHER EDUCATION

PA 24-81 (sec. 75) bolsters the PACT (Pledge to Advance Connecticut) program, which awards grants to community college students, by expanding eligibility to more students, and by increasing the minimum award amount.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

PA 24-148 makes various changes to election laws regarding the requesting and returning of absentee ballots, as well as the checking and recording of drop boxes for ballots.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

PA 24-151 (sec. 71) gives towns the option of providing a partial property tax exemption, between 5% and 35% of the assessed value, for certain owner-occupied primary residences. PA 24-143 (sec. 6) allows towns to freeze a property's assessed value for up to 30 years, provided that it is being developed for certain specified purposes (office, retail, or manufacturing). PA 24-46 fully exempts from property taxes a primary residence or motor vehicle for each former member of the armed services who has a permanent and total (100 %) disability rating.

BIENNIAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Up to \$42 million in state reimbursement for the new Farmington High School
- \$430,000 in ARPA funding for: the Westwoods Recreation Complex, Dial-A-Ride bus, Town Hall improvements, Highway and Grounds Department

TAX CUTS, INVESTMENTS, SURPLUS

- \$600 million in tax cuts
- Continued investments in higher education: UConn, UConn Health, Community Colleges and State Universities
- Record surplus in Rainy Day Fund
- Continued paying down of legacy “unfunded liabilities”
- Increased funding for social services “safety net”
- Increased funding for mental health services

POLITICAL SPENDING

PA 24-28 prohibits foreign nationals from making contributions or expenditures under the state’s campaign finance laws.

ENVIRONMENT

PA 24-59 requires manufacturers, beginning in 2026, to clearly label various consumer products containing intentionally added PFAS, before offering them for sale. Beginning in 2028, these products cannot be sold in Connecticut.

HOUSING

PA 24-143 (sec. 11) allows, at the town’s discretion, the development of “middle housing” (duplexes, triplexes, townhouses) on lots that allow for residential, commercial, or mixed-use development. This new law also (sec. 16 and 17) requires landlords to provide residential tenants with at least 45 days written notice of proposed rent increases.

PAID SICK LEAVE

PA 24-8 expands the state's paid sick leave law, to gradually cover nearly all private sector employees by 2027. (Seasonal employees and certain union construction workers are exempted.) Employers who currently offer at least 40 hours per year of paid leave to their employees would not be affected by this law. Leave is accrued at the rate of one hour per every 30 hours worked, and employees may use this leave starting on the 120th calendar day of their employment.

HEALTH WORKER SAFETY

PA 24-19 affords protections to home health agency workers by requiring notification of a client’s history of violence or substance use, the service location, the town’s crime rate, the presence of hazardous materials or firearms, and the status of the location’s fire alarm system.

TELEHEALTH

PA 24-110 makes permanent certain telehealth provisions that were adopted during the COVID pandemic. It prohibits providers from charging uninsured patients more than the Medicare reimbursement rate for telehealth services, and it prohibits insurance companies from reducing their reimbursement rate to telehealth providers for covered telehealth services.

DEAF SERVICES

PA 24-81 (sec. 65-72) establishes the “Bureau of Services for Persons who are Deaf, Deafblind, or Hard of Hearing,” within the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Among other provisions, it requires state agencies to appoint one employee to act as a point of contact for concerns related to people who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing.

WHEELCHAIR REPAIRS

PA 24-58 requires authorized wheelchair dealers to perform timely repairs, not later than 10 business days after requested, at a consumer's home. It also prohibits the Department of Social Services from requiring a new prescription or prior authorization for medically necessary repairs of a customized wheelchair.

MEDICAL DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENT

PA 24-113 requires healthcare facilities and practice locations, of a certain size, to train staff on procedures for patients with accessibility needs, take an inventory of medical diagnostic equipment, and create a plan to ensure compliance with accessibility standards. Starting in 2026, it requires these facilities to have available weight scales, examination tables, and examination chairs that accommodate patients needing these assistive devices.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

PA 24-40 (sec. 42-50) makes permanent the Department of Transportation's work zone speed camera program and expands the number of permissible locations for these cameras. PA 24-151 (sec. 132-136) allows towns to adopt a "noise limit" for motor vehicles and allows the use of "noise cameras" to enforce violations of this limit.