

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE DEMICCO

Dear Neighbor:

The 2026 session of the Connecticut General Assembly saw significant achievements for the state of Connecticut, and for Farmington and Unionville. Supplemental aid packages (totaling approximately \$283 million) for municipalities and Boards of Education were instituted, resulting in an "extra" allocation of nearly \$2 million for Farmington in Fiscal Year '27, which helps to reduce our town's property tax rate. Farmington will now receive approximately \$12 million in total state aid for this upcoming fiscal year.

Revisions to the state budget maintain the legislatively-imposed spending, revenue, and volatility caps, while still reducing pension debt by \$1 billion, and increasing Medicaid reimbursements. The revised budget increases funding for childcare, provides funding for universal free school breakfasts, and institutes a graduate student loan program (to mitigate cuts at the federal level).

New laws: impose restrictions on I.C.E. activities in Connecticut, allow the Commissioner of Public Health to establish vaccine standards and protocols at the state level, allow for "no excuse" absentee voting, ban the future sale and distribution of "convertible" pistols, and institute protections for children who are withdrawn from the public school system.

Other new laws: provide A.I. protections for consumers and employees, reauthorize and extend incentives for residential and commercial solar power, regulate the retention and use of "Automatic License Plate Reader" information, extend "research and development" tax credits for certain businesses, expand the family caregiver tax credit, and expand the "sales tax free" week for school supplies.

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

Mike Demicco



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BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Public Act 26-68 appropriated \$183 million to the state Department of Education in Fiscal Year '27 for supplemental education grants to cities and towns, and \$100 million for supplemental municipal grants. Of these amounts, Farmington will receive approximately \$2 million in increased state aid, for a total of \$12 million in FY '27.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF NURSING HOMES

Public Act 26-103 requires each nursing home that is a Medicaid provider to be fully controlled by its licensee regarding the home's governance, assets, and activities. The law also requires these homes to attest to the Department of Public Health each year that no investment company has control over the home's resident health, safety, or care. The law also requires nursing homes to annually report to the Department of Social Services on investment companies with certain ownership interests in them.

HOMESCHOOLING

Public Act 26-37 requires parents of most school-age children to annually complete an "intent to educate" form, indicating whether their child will enroll in a public school, attend a non-public school, or be instructed through parent-managed learning. (Parents are in compliance if their child attends a school that files the required annual attendance report.) The law prohibits parents withdrawing their child for parent-managed learning from doing so if any adult living with the child is on the state's child abuse and neglect registry, or currently under investigation for child abuse or neglect.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS

Public Act 26-127 requires the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to establish successor programs for current clean energy programs that govern how electric customers who install, lease, subscribe to, or otherwise contract with renewable energy facilities are compensated for the energy these facilities produce.

FARMINGTON IN THE STATE BUDGET

Total State Aid for Farmington:
FISCAL YEAR 2025: \$7.9 MILLION
FISCAL YEAR 2026: \$10.1 MILLION
FISCAL YEAR 2027: \$12.1 MILLION

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Public Act 26-15 requires AI subscription-based providers to give consumers a written notice of the key terms and conditions; requires AI companion operators to give certain notices to a user disclosing that the user is communicating with an AI companion; requires those who use an automated decision technology in making an employment-related decision to give certain disclosures and a written notice with specific disclosures; and requires the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) to evaluate the use of independent, third-party verification programs for assessing whether AI models adhere to standards reflecting best practices for preventing personal injury, property damage, data privacy harms, and other harms.

ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTING

Public Act 26-42 institutes "no-excuse" absentee voting, which allows all eligible voters to cast absentee ballots, instead of just those with a valid reason. It also establishes procedures for "curing" absentee ballots for voters who failed to sign theirs, and creates procedures for voters to automatically receive absentee ballot applications.

ICHRA TAX CREDIT

Public Act 26-76 establishes a tax credit of \$1000 per covered employee for qualified small businesses that offer employees an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA) through the state's health insurance exchange. To qualify, a small business (50 employees or less) must have adopted an ICHRA instead of a traditional employer-provided health insurance plan.

CONVERTIBLE PISTOLS

Public Act 26-41 generally makes it a class D felony to knowingly import into Connecticut or knowingly advertise, sell, offer, or expose for sale any convertible pistol (a semi-automatic pistol that can be readily altered into a machine gun) manufactured on or after October 1, 2026.

I.C.E. RESTRICTIONS

Public Act 26-14 prohibits peace officers without a judicial warrant from detaining, arresting, or taking someone into custody based on a civil offense in a state or municipal facility or a "protected area" (schools, hospitals, churches); prohibits peace officers from wearing a facial covering when interacting with the public; generally requires peace officers to be clearly identified by their badge and nametag when making a planned, authorized arrest; and allows individuals to sue a federal or state officer for alleged civil rights violations.

AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS

Public Acts 26-14 and 26-76 (section 46) set conditions and restrictions on how law enforcement and public agencies may use automated license plate reader (ALPR) systems or associated data, including limits on when they can use the systems or data or share the data, and how long they can keep the data.

IMMUNIZATION STANDARDS

Public Act 26-3 requires the Department of Public Health to establish immunization standards of care for all Connecticut residents. In developing these standards, it allows DPH to consider recommended vaccine schedules from several medical professional organizations, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians. The law establishes a new DPH-administered "Vaccines for Adults" program that gives vaccines at no cost to under- and uninsured adults, and requires certain health insurance policies to cover immunizations included in DPH's standards of care.