

## VETERANS

- Established the National Purple Star School Program to assist families with school registration, planning, counseling, and other support services
- Created a tourism trail that showcases our veterans and military destinations
- Increased funeral benefits to cover the cost of obituaries
- Expanded benefits for LGBTQ+ veterans
- Directed state colleges and universities to update which credits can be awarded based on military training

## SENIORS

- Decreased the eligibility age for the local option Elderly Tax Freeze Program from age 70 to age 65 if a municipality so chooses
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies, supply inventories in response to COVID-19
- Expanded the nursing home patients' bill of rights to include the right of residents to treat their living quarters as their own home, including purchasing and using virtual visitation and virtual monitoring technology
- Allows towns to offer more seniors a break on their property taxes
- Requires background checks at homemaker-companion agencies

## EDUCATION & HIGHER ED

- Established the Connecticut Automatic Admissions Program for April 2022 which will grant graduating Connecticut high school students meeting certain academic standards, automatic admissions to undergraduate studies at any state college or university and any participating private college or university in the state
- Created a dedicated funding stream for the debt-free community college program
- Strengthened sexual misconduct reporting, data collection, and response on CT college campuses
- Banned the charging of extra graduation fees at state colleges and universities
- Streamlined workforce initiatives under a new Office of Workforce Strategy
- Made it easier for residents to know what CT colleges they can easily get into and what certificate programs are worth pursuing



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**MICHAEL DIGIOVANCARLO**  
PROUDLY SERVING WATERBURY

## CAPITOL UPDATE 2021

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Michael.DiGiovancarlo@cga.ct.gov

## Victories for Waterbury



### EAST MOUNTAIN PARK

I secured \$82,700 for East Mountain Park to replace and repair the three water fountains and irrigation system in the park.

### OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE PLATES

I championed to allow municipalities to create a local ordinance that allows police to issue \$250 fines to residents caught with out-of-state plates after living in Connecticut for more than 90 days.

Dear Neighbor,

I know the past year has been difficult for each individual and family in our community, and I believe the legislation recently passed in Hartford will empower everyone in our district.

I worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education. I fought to ensure Waterbury will see an increase in funding from Fiscal Year 2021 in both 2022 and 2023. I am confident that these state investments will help our community recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic.

Please continue reading below for more information on legislative highlights and resources developed this session that will benefit your family, our district, and our state.

Sincerely,

Michael DiGiovancarlo

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**MICHAEL DIGIOVANCARLO**

**CAPITOL UPDATE 2021**



**ECONOMY & COVID-19 RELIEF**

- Established utility protections for residential customers, including the ban of cancellation fees by electric companies and unpredictable variable rates
- Cut red tape and made outdoor dining a permanent option for bars and restaurants
- Decreased unemployment insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs and paying directly into the fund
- Created an Unemployed Workers' Advocate to assist out-of-work residents with accessing benefits and getting back to work
- Required better rates on student loans for teachers in Alliance Districts
- Set fair reimbursements for local small business outdoor equipment dealers who perform warranty maintenance
- Developed a competitive program for fuel cell projects that favors CT-made equipment and will redevelop brownfields and landfills

**CHILDREN**

- Ensured we have programs and services to help youth recover from the pandemic
- Passed Tristan's Law which requires ice cream trucks to increase their visibility to other drivers
- Expanded youth suicide prevention training
- Created more outpatient services for kids
- Required social emotional learning as part of professional development for teachers
- Continued virtual parent teacher conferences
- Addressed absenteeism in virtual learning
- Ended lunch shaming when kids fall behind in paying for their school lunches
- Improved sexual misconduct reporting, data collection, and our response to sexual assaults on CT college campuses
- Cracked down on online harassment with tougher penalties
- Added Native American studies to the public school curriculum



**WATERBURY BUDGET SUMMARY**

	<b>FY 21</b> <i>Previous Budget Biennium</i>	<b>FY 22</b>	<b>FY 23</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING</b>	<b>\$174,741,071</b>	<b>\$184,615,340</b>	<b>\$191,758,354</b>
<b>NON-EDUCATION AID</b>	<b>\$22,695,199</b>	<b>\$25,356,146</b>	<b>\$25,356,146</b>
<b>EDUCATION COST SHARING</b>	<b>\$150,090,541</b>	<b>\$157,222,793</b>	<b>\$164,355,045</b>

**FAMILIES**

- Provided more funding to our important community nonprofit organizations for services and resources
- Expanded workers' compensation benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and front-line health care providers who were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provided low-income families a break on their state income tax through the Earned Income Tax Credit
- Increased protections on homes, cars and bank accounts when someone falls into debt
- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring manufacturing discounts go to the consumer and not the insurance company
- Eliminated state income taxes on IRA income over time, beginning in the 2023 tax year
- Created a new workforce pipeline program for individuals with disabilities
- Erased most misdemeanor crimes after 7 years and lesser felonies after 10
- Joined seven states in making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture and protective hairstyle

Sign up for my e-newsletter to receive updates and information in your Inbox.

[www.housedems.ct.gov/DiGiovancarlo](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/DiGiovancarlo)



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