

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session featured big issues like elections, standing up for working families, funding our schools, the state budget – and we tackled them all.

We made historic investments in police, fire, EMS, veterans, teachers, and health care workers. \$320 million has been invested into the Early Childhood Education Endowment.



“Connecticut budget adds free school breakfasts, ends sales tax on school supplies.”

-Hearst CT

This newsletter has details about legislation we passed and key policy initiatives from the 2026 session. I hope you find it informative.

Enjoy,

BIG WINS FOR WATERBURY

- \$201 million in Education Cost Sharing
- \$14 million in Supplemental Education Funding
- \$2 million in Special Education Funding
- UConn Health acquired Waterbury Hospital, preserving access to high quality care for Waterbury and surrounding towns
- \$1.5 million for Waterbury Promise
- \$80,000 for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Waterbury
- \$20,000 for the Hispanic Coalition of Greater Waterbury



STATE REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL DIGIOVANCARLO PROUDLY SERVING WATERBURY'S 74TH DISTRICT

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CAPITOL UPDATE 26

Representative Michael DiGiovancarlo
Legislative Office Building, 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MICHAEL DIGIOVANCARLO
PROUDLY SERVING WATERBURY

CONTACT ME ANY TIME:

- 📞 860-240-8585
- ✉ Michael.DiGiovancarlo@cga.ct.gov
- 🌐 housedems.ct.gov/DiGiovancarlo
- 📘 facebook.com/RepDiGiovancarlo



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

MICHAEL DIGIOVANCARLO

CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

BIG WINS FOR

CONNECTICUT

- Invested over \$190 million in public education for 2026-2027 school year
- Allows us to prepay an additional \$1.1 billion in pension liability
- \$320 million for Early Childhood Education Endowment



PRIORITIZING

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Improved fire safety with better local planning for fire prevention
- Cracked down on scammers who go after veterans pretending to be licensed claim agents or attorneys



PROTECTING

OUR SENIORS

- Required assisted living facilities to give 60 days' notice before any fee increase
- Required staff at assisted living agencies to receive annual training on residents' fear of retaliation, so seniors can freely speak up about their care



SUPPORTING CT

FIRST RESPONDERS

- Created a tuition assistance program for in-state first responders
- Created a new mortgage assistance program for first responders



MAKING

ROADS SAFER

- Clarified distracted driving laws to account for modern technology
- Suspended licenses for people who continue to illegally pass school buses
- Stronger penalties for driving offenses in work zones



ADDRESSING

RECRUITMENT AND

RETENTION POLICIES

- Required UConn to establish a recruitment and retention program for its special police forces and fire department
- Established a task force to study issues relating to recruitment and retention of public safety personnel in Connecticut



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
- Invested in our workforce and residents



HONORING OUR VETERANS

- Expanded what proof veterans and their families can submit to claim a property tax exemption
- Bolstered efforts to connect veterans with employment opportunities – including workplace postings on veterans' benefits and services
- Created a dental care program for thousands of eligible veterans in our state to cover up to \$3,000 in costs annually