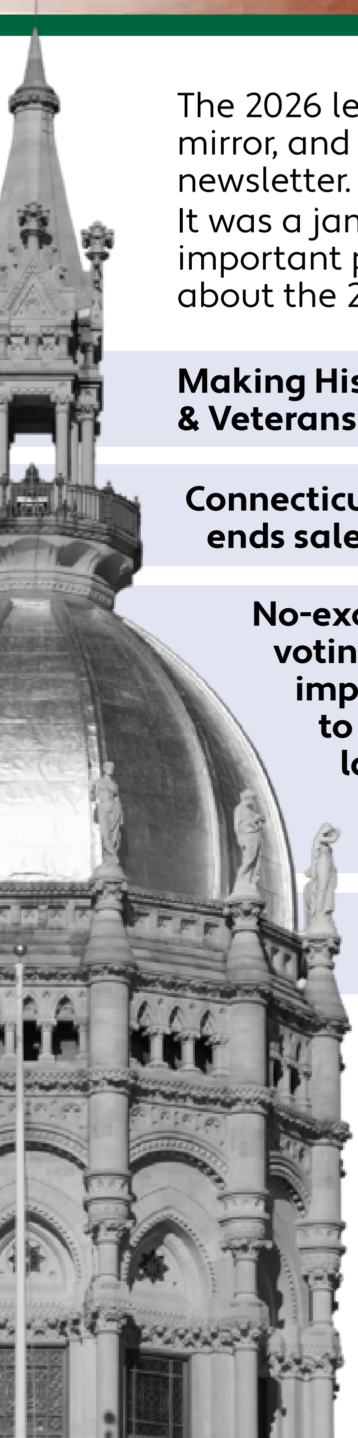

The 2026 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I want to share some highlights in this newsletter.
It was a jam-packed session full of big ideas and important policies. What were people saying about the 2026 session? Here's a taste:

Making Historic Investments in Police, Fire, EMS, & Veterans - *CT Mirror*

Connecticut budget adds free school breakfasts, ends sales tax on school supplies - *Hearst CT*

No-excuse absentee ballots make voting more accessible for those facing impediments to in-person voting due to disability and mobility limitations, lack of transportation, childcare or caretaking duties, or work schedules - *Office of Governor Ned Lamont*

Additional funding heading for Connecticut school districts - *NBC 30*

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

Enjoy,

Mary B. Fortier

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARY FORTIER
PROUDLY SERVING BRISTOL & FORESTVILLE

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

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SECURING FUNDING FOR BRISTOL

- **$64,273,164** in total funding for Bristol
- **$55,102,941** in education funding
- **$4,856,624** in municipal grants-in-aid
- **$892,953** in aid to town roads
- **$500,000** for construction of Special Olympics Headquarters

PRIORITIZED MAKING CONNECTICUT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

- 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
- Required health insurers to highlight changes to their prescription drug coverage during their open enrollment periods
- Made sure our state can review and negotiate lower prescription drug prices
- Created state fines for landlords who don't return your security deposit
- Strengthened laws that require individual meters for separate electric bills at rental units
- Required the disclosure of private equity owners in our hospital systems and banned sale-leaseback deals

SUPPORTING WORKERS

- Strengthened protections for workers on state-funded construction projects by allowing the Comptroller to withhold payments to contractors who don't pay fair wages
- Made companies disclose when they use AI for decision-making and tell their employees when layoffs are related to AI or other technologies
- Protected workers by requiring businesses to notify employees when and where they are being monitored by electronic surveillance

INVESTING IN EDUCATION

- Increased supplemental education funding to cities and towns
- Deposited $300 million into the Early Childhood Endowment
- $12 million to expand free school breakfasts across the state
- Newly launched literacy interventions and concentrated tutoring
- Expanded the Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

- Required staff at assisted living agencies to receive annual training on residents' fear of retaliation, so seniors can freely speak up about their care
- Required homemaker companions (the workers who help seniors with cooking, dressing, and companionship in their homes) to get 8 hours of annual training. The training includes how to best help seniors who have dementia, how to report abuse and neglect, and home safety
- Strengthened state audits of Medicaid rates at nursing homes

CRACKING DOWN ON PRIVATE EQUITY OWNERSHIP OF NURSING HOMES

Private equity firms and other investment entities have been buying nursing homes around the country, often with cost-cutting changes that hurt residents and leave families in the lurch when a facility suddenly closes. We approved new reforms to promote accountability and transparency, including:

- Required nursing homes with 5% or more investor ownership to disclose detailed ownership and financial information every year
- Required private equity nursing homes to carry a surety bond equal to 90 days of operating costs, so the state has a safety net if a facility runs into financial trouble or shuts down
- Placed operational control with the licensed operator, not the investors, by requiring license holders to maintain full authority over clinical, financial, and personnel decisions