

STATE REPRESENTATIVE **BOB GODFREY**

Dear Neighbor,

I hope you are well as we continue to fight Covid-19. The pandemic is not over. Get vaccinated. Follow the CDC guidelines. Wear masks as directed. Maintain social distances. Wash your hands. Protect one another. Respect one another. We're all in this together.

Throughout the 2021 regular legislative session, my colleagues and I worked on the unprecedented health issues that have challenged our state for the last year and a half. We made progress on other issues that will uplift hard-working families. As your state representative my goal is to make sure that you and everyone in Danbury and Connecticut is safe, healthy, and prosperous. That's why I fought and voted for new laws that created fair public health policies, increased access to mental health resources, and strengthened support for our seniors, public school students, and small business owners. I worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that cuts taxes for working class people, invests in community development, and provides unprecedented support for city and non-profit resources in Danbury. I am confident that these state investments will see Danbury both recover and thrive as we prepare ourselves for the future.

This report lists some of the most important issues the General Assembly addressed successfully. My commitment continues to be to you and our neighbors here in Danbury, working families of all generations, and our safety, health, and prosperity. Don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or if you need assistance with a state agency.

Best,



 www.facebook.com/StateRepBobGodfrey

Stay in touch. Connect with me on Facebook for frequent updates on state assistance. Sign up for e-blasts at www.housedems.ct.gov/Godfrey

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
BOB GODFREY
PROUDLY SERVING DANBURY



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
**BOB
GODFREY**

**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2021**



Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Call me at 800-842-1902 or 860-240-8532
www.housedems.ct.gov/Godfrey
Bob.Godfrey@cga.ct.gov

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JOBS & THE ECONOMY

- Repealed the poverty tax to stop the state from taking back cash and medical assistance when someone fights their way out of poverty (PA 21-3)
- Cut Unemployment Insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs and infusing state resources directly into the fund (PA 21-5 & PA 21-2)
- Streamlined workforce initiatives under a new Office of Workforce Strategy and made it easier for residents to know which CT colleges they can easily get in to as well as which certificate programs are worth taking (PA 21-2)
- Helped our community's establishments by creating a tax-free week for restaurants and cutting red tape to make outdoor dining a permanent option (PA 21-2)
- Legalized sports betting and online gaming and provided for the creation of new sports gaming hubs in communities throughout the state (PA 21-23)
- Legalized personal use of cannabis, not only to create a new small business sector and revenue stream, but to be safe and fair (PA 21-37)

Below: State Representative Raghiv Allie-Brennan and I join State Treasurer Shawn Wooden and local officials at one of Danbury's vaccination clinics.



BRINGING YOUR TAXES HOME

	FY 22	FY 23
Education Cost Sharing (ECS)	\$40,276,119	\$42,853,764
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) *	\$5,441,003	\$5,441,003
Grants For Municipal Projects	\$3,027,544	\$3,027,544
Town Aid Road	\$875,273	\$875,273
Local Capital Improvement Project	\$565,755	\$565,755
Special Non-Profit Funding:		
APEX Community Care	\$260,733	\$260,733
Danbury Youth Services	\$75,000	\$75,000
Danbury PAL	\$140,000	\$140,000
Women's Employment Program	\$25,000	\$25,000
Total State Funds to Danbury	\$52,342,706	\$54,921,725

* Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PA 21-3) is state funding to compensate Danbury for non profits, like Danbury Hospital & Western Connecticut State University, that don't pay property taxes. These funds increased substantially this year.

A STRONGER DEMOCRACY

- Voters will get to decide in 2022 if we should have early, in-person voting and in 2024 you'll decide if every registered voter in CT should be able to vote by absentee ballot (RA 21-1 and RA 21-2)
- Protected voters' personal information (PA 21-2)
- Paved the way for permanent drop boxes for absentee ballots (PA 21-2)
- Guaranteed two hours off from work to vote in state and federal elections (PA 21-2)

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

- Established new utility protections for residential customers that removes cancellation fees by electric companies and bans unpredictable variable rates (PA 21-117)
- Created higher renewable energy standards for heat and electric utilities (PA A-118)
- Raised bottle deposits to 10 cents, applied deposits to more products and provided more money to towns and redemption centers to ensure these products don't wind up as litter or in a landfill (PA 21-58)
- Regulated the harmful chemical "PFAS" (PA 21-191)



Above: Danbury's State Representatives: David Arconti, Ken Gucker, Bob Godfrey, Pat Callahan, Raghiv Allie-Brennan, and Steve Harding.

PROVIDING FOR OUR SENIORS

- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring for nursing home residents (PA 21-55) and created a statewide policy on visitation (PA 21-71)
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies, and supply inventories in response to COVID-19 (PA 21-185)
- Allowed towns to lower the senior property tax threshold from 70 years old to 65 years old (PA 21-84)
- Strengthened rights for the deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing (PA 21-72)
- Required background checks at homemaker-companion agencies (PA 21-37)
- Fought age discrimination in the workplace - limited the need for your age and other dates on job applications (PA 21-69)

PUTTING SAFETY FIRST

- Put community violence prevention programs on a path to sustainable funding and growth in our state to serve more victims of gun violence and their families (PA 21-36)
- Ensured school athletic programs have plans to deal with emergencies (PA 21-92)
- Increased property tax breaks for volunteer firefighters and first responders (PA 21-83)
- Increased state funding to the Danbury Health Department from \$90,531 to \$163,459 in the for the next two fiscal years (PA 21-2)