

Hello friends and neighbors!

The 2026 legislative session focused on protecting Connecticut from the wildly chaotic economy being whiplashed daily by the Trump Administration, as well as other big issues like fair elections, standing up for working families, better funding of our special education, and delivering another balanced state budget.

Voters demanded better access to absentee ballots, and we ensured your voices were heard. We devoted hundreds of millions of dollars to special education and fought hard to expand solar and wind resources to contain the cost of energy, even as yet another war has resulted in soaring gas, oil, and food costs for everyone.

Our work continues, and I look forward to conversations with you all in the off-session to hear how we can make good policy together for this moment and the future we creatively envision.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Representative for our home in the 135th District. I will continue to be an advocate, ally, and friend even as times get harder with federal cuts, foreign wars, and continued assaults on our democracy. Let's keep fighting the good fight.

Peace,

Anne Hughes



FUNDING OUR TOWNS

- Over **\$2.5 million** in state funds secured for Easton, Weston, and Redding
- An additional **\$68,000 in grants** and supplemental educational funding
- Funded **universal free school breakfast**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ANNE HUGHES

PROUDLY SERVING EASTON, WESTON, & REDDING



CAPITOL UPDATE 26

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ANNE HUGHES
PROUDLY SERVING EASTON,
WESTON, & REDDING

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

ANNE HUGHES

CAPITOL UPDATE 2026

BIG WINS FOR

CONNECTICUT

- Investing over \$190 million in public education for 2026-2027 school year
- Allowing us to prepay an additional \$1.1 billion in pension liability
- Investing another \$320 million in the early childhood endowment, working toward universal childcare by 2028



AI REGULATION

- Requiring companies disclose AI usage for decision-making and inform employees when layoffs are related to AI
- Mandating AI companies to institute protections for minors and those at risk of self-harm



WORKFORCE PROTECTIONS

- Ensuring public works employees are covered by workers' comp to/from an emergency shift
- Protecting healthcare workers who are assaulted at work
- Defending tenured teachers from wrongful termination by requiring them to go before a neutral arbitration board



COMBATING FEDERAL ATTACKS

- Allowing residents to sue ICE when their constitutional rights are violated
- Empowering our Attorney General to intervene on behalf of our residents
- Creating a statewide ban on federal agents wearing masks
- Prohibiting local police from hiring ICE agents who lost their jobs because of misconduct



MODERNIZING ABSENTEE VOTING

- Replacing the confusing second envelope with a more reliable bar code system
- Setting up a system to check the status of your absentee ballot online
- Allowing anyone who will be 18 by Election Day to vote early or by absentee ballot



FIGHTING FOR OUR SENIORS

- Empowering the Insurance Commissioner to investigate and take action against long-term-care insurers who violate state laws
- Requiring assisted living facilities to give 60 days' notice before any fee increase
- Increasing oversight of training and care of residents with dementia



CT HOUSE DEMOCRATS

FINALIZE

RESPONSIBLE BIPARTISAN BUDGET

- WE'RE DELIVERING TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:
- Expanding sales tax-free week to include clothing, shoes, and backpacks under \$300
 - Expanding micro-transit, fare-free buses for vets and students
 - Marking more items as tax-free school supplies
 - Creating a family caregiver tax credit for residents caring for a loved one
 - Another down payment into the universal quality childcare endowment fund
 - Stabilizing hospital costs and increased healthcare provider reimbursement rates
 - Supporting small businesses by providing a tax credit when they contribute toward employees' health insurance



ENVIRONMENTAL WINS

- Standardizing program rules across renewable programs to make participation easier and more predictable for customers and installers of green energy
- Overhauling state-backed solar with an emphasis on storage, allowing residents to keep and use more of the energy they generate without having to sell it back to the grid
- Developing a rapid response program for addressing hydrilla and other invasive species plaguing our waterways
- Creating a full ban on releasing balloons into the atmosphere, and expanded our state's paint recycling program to cover spray paint