

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
**SUSAN
JOHNSON**
PROUDLY SERVING WINDHAM

Dear Neighbor,

It is an honor to serve you in the legislature. This year's legislative session wrapped up in June and I am pleased to share some exciting new laws that will help to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and raise a family.

The town of Windham will receive significant funding under the state budget that Governor Lamont signed into law in June. State funds, along with federal funds coming from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will help Windham eliminate any deficit, keep a lid on local property tax increases, and ensure our town can continue to maintain a budget reserve. The federal funds in particular are a one-time infusion of funds in response to the pandemic and our local officials must use the funds in accordance with COVID-19 expenses that have been incurred and may still be a problem.

I hope you find the enclosed information helpful. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if I can be of service to you or your family. I can be reached at: Susan.Johnson@cga.ct.gov; or, by phone at: 860-240-8528. If you haven't already done so, head over to my website to sign up for my email blasts to receive updates on my bills and issues facing our town and our state. I will continue to fight for the best interests of Windham.

Sincerely,



Susan Johnson

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UPDATE 2021**

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Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Capitol: 860-240-8585 | 800-842-8267
www.housedems.ct.gov/Johnson



Susan.Johnson@cga.ct.gov



www.housedems.ct.gov/Johnson



www.facebook.com/RepSusanJohnson

STATE AID INCREASE FOR WINDHAM



FY22 FROM FY21 **\$3,220,000**

FY23 FROM FY21 **\$4,200,000**

WINDHAM BUDGET BREAKDOWN

This session the legislature passed a \$46.4 billion bipartisan biennium budget. The budget that was passed includes a \$2.3 billion surplus that is strong on not raising taxes, offers relief from the ravages of COVID-19, helps jumpstart our economy and invests in our cities and towns.

The 2022-2023 budget:

1. Rejects tax hikes on gasoline, insurance policies and large Connecticut home properties;
2. Includes tax relief for restaurants and allows certain restaurants to retain a portion of collected sales tax during a specified period of time;
3. Increases the state's earned income tax credit (EITC) to 30.5% of the federal credit. During the 2019 fiscal year, 2,235 Windham residents filed for the EITC. If the credit for that year was at 30.5% of the federal EITC, \$1,601,238 would have gone back to residents;
4. Eliminates the admissions tax as of July 1, 2021 for participating colleges and universities;
5. Maintains our historic balance in the state's \$3.5 billion Rainy-Day Fund;
6. Increases town aid and fairly funds Education Cost Sharing (ECS) for Windham;
7. Expands healthcare for 40,000 expectant mothers, families, and low-income adults through the "Covered Connecticut" initiative which will provide insurance to individuals who are not covered by HUSKY but are under 175% of the federal poverty line;
8. Expands workforce training so that we can get people back to work;
9. Fully funds free community college for eligible first-time and full-time students; and
10. Includes grants available for arts, culture and tourism.

WINDHAM BUDGET SUMMARY

	FY21	FY22	FY23
PILOT		\$5,300,785	\$5,300,785
ECS	\$28,962,979	\$29,939,873	\$30,916,766
TOTAL STATE AID	\$35,553,015	\$38,780,232	\$39,758,728

STATE REPRESENTATIVE SUSAN JOHNSON

STATE FUNDING FOR WINDHAM HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION

This session, the legislature passed the school bonding bill which included an increased state reimbursement from 80% to 95% to renovate Windham High School as new. Windham voters approved \$112 million. The state's bonding increase will save Windham taxpayers more than \$15 million.

2021 MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The budget we negotiated ensures that the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) will be fully funded. MSP helps low-income elderly individuals and the disabled pay for the cost of medicine and healthcare premiums. The income eligibility limits are detailed in the chart below:

MSP TIER	INDIVIDUAL INCOME LIMIT (% FPL)	INDIVIDUAL ANNUAL INCOME LIMIT
QMB	Less than 211%	\$27,177
SLMB	211% to 231%	\$29,753
QI	231% to 246%	\$31,685



Rep. Johnson and Rep. Smith with local and state officials at the Windham Intermodal Transportation Parking Center

2021 LEGISLATION HIGHLIGHTS

Fighting for Equality

- Declared racism a public health crisis and created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- 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)
- Approved better rates on student loans for teachers in Alliance Districts (PA 21-62)
- Prohibited insurance companies from charging more for victims of domestic violence (PA 21-93)
- Jennifer's Law, standing up for victims and survivors: The legislature made several changes related to domestic violence, civil restraining orders, family violence, assistance programs, and other associated items (PA-21-78)

A Voice for the Consumer

- Lowered prescription drug costs by requiring that manufacturing discounts go to the consumer and not the insurance company (PA 21-14)
- Banned the charging of extra graduation fees at CT colleges and universities (PA 21-132)
- New Utility Protections for Residential Customers (PA 21-117)
 - o No more cancellation fees by electric companies
 - o Consumer-friendly notifications
 - o Banned unpredictable variable rates

A Greener CT

- Regulated the harmful chemical "PFAS" (PA 21-191)
- Created a competitive program for fuel cell projects that favors CT-made equipment and will redevelop brownfields and landfills (PA 21-162)

Responding to Healthcare Needs

- Established task forces on mental health and support services (PA 21-125)
- Approved more resources to community providers (PA 21-2)
- Expanded workers' comp benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and health care providers who were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic (PA 21-107)
- Continued coverage for and access to telehealth (PA 21-133 & PA 21-9)

Housing

- Guaranteed legal representation if you're facing eviction (PA 21-34)
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance (PA 21-44)

Standing up for Seniors

- Fought age discrimination in the workplace – limited the need for your age and other dates on job applications (PA 21-69)