



At the end of each session, we do our best to compile the highlights of legislation that passed with the support of both chambers of the legislature and the governor. I hope you find this end-of-session newsletter useful and that if you have any questions, you will reach out to me for additional information.

The headlines make the case for Connecticut moving forward: over one million tax filers will see a reduction in their taxes, we continue to pay down our debt (over \$2 billion in unfunded pension liability), and we are building our future with funding for students, families, seniors and our most vulnerable residents.

It's not a small thing to say we delivered results in a bipartisan manner, something you don't see in many places in the country right now. We prioritized education, public safety, healthcare and more, together.

It remains a privilege and an honor to represent you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me and my office if I can be of any assistance to you or your family.

Sincerely,

State Representative Eleni Kavros DeGraw  
District 17 Avon/Canton



# NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ELENI KAVROS DEGRAW

PROUDLY SERVING AVON AND CANTON

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE ELENI KAVROS DEGRAW

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## PROVIDING FOR OUR TOWNS

### HELPING STABILIZE AND LOWER PROPERTY TAXES

- Allowed towns to accept electronic signatures from contractors - helping streamline local government and business permitting
- Provided \$60 million in new funding for town governments

### HISTORIC FUNDING FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

- Prevented any towns from receiving a funding cut to their local schools
- Continued our commitment to funding local boards of education with an honest ECS formula

### INVESTS OVER \$240 MILLION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE 2024-25 YEAR

- Capped tuition payments that local districts pay for students attending choice programs
- \$164 million in new funding to local boards of education
- \$53.3 million in new funding for magnet schools
- \$11.4 million in new funding for Open Choice
- \$7.2 million in new funding for vocational agriculture programs

## HELPING CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

- Allowed trained childcare providers to administer EpiPens
- Required a state audit of all standardized testing
- Required high school students to take a financial literacy class before graduating
- Banned child marriage
- Required funds from the state's legal settlement with vape giant JUUL to go to helping kids under 21
- Aligned the age to enter kindergarten with the overwhelming majority of other states and required more play-based learning from pre-K to grade five

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES THE

# LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✓ **\$600 million middle class tax cut**
- ✓ Increase **Earned Income Tax Credit** for lower income workers
- ✓ Expand cuts to retirement savings to **benefit seniors**

## INVESTS:

- ✓ More funding for K-12 education
- ✓ More funding for higher education
- ✓ More funding for nonprofits
- ✓ More funding for childcare
- ✓ **MORE FUNDING FOR AVON & CANTON**



## SUPPORTING WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES

- Required full disclosure of hidden fees on small business loans, ensured access to judicial hearings in a dispute and required any loan offers to be good for at least three days
- Cut the number of reporting requirements for businesses
- Supported CT farm wineries by allowing them to open up to three retail locations
- Cut business taxes to promote the expansion of childcare facilities
- Made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects
- Expanded JobsCT to increase employment and job creation in our state



## SUPPORTING SENIORS

- Strengthened the patients' involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints
- Expanded eligibility for seniors to participate in adult day services (serving those with early onset dementia)
- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services including primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals
- Increased funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels
- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed

Plus, we eliminated even more taxes on retirement. Current law exempts 100% of pension and annuity income from the state's income tax, and we are halfway to phasing out 100% of IRA income (my bill in 2021) for those making \$75,000 or less annually (\$100,000 for joint filers).

This session, we extended these exemptions to taxpayers making up to \$100,000 (up to \$150,000 for joint filers) by phasing out the deduction between 2.5% and 100% depending on your income, thereby smoothing the fiscal cliff some seniors previously experienced.