

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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## **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE APPOINTS REP. LESSER TO JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

**State Representative Matthew Lesser (D – Middletown)** is thrilled to be named a member of the Juvenile Justice and Policy Oversight Committee (JJPOC) by **Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey (D-Hamden)**. The JJPOC is a task force under the umbrella of the state legislature’s appropriations committee.

The Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee was established to evaluate policies related to the Juvenile Justice system and the expansion of juvenile jurisdiction to include persons sixteen and seventeen years of age. The JJPOC receives administrative staff support from the University of New Haven’s Tow Youth Justice Institute.

“As the host community for the Connecticut Juvenile Training School for boys and the Pueblo Unit for girls, this issue is incredibly important for Middletown. I want to thank Speaker Sharkey for appointing me to this new role. I look forward to working with the Committee to find innovative and meaningful ways to increase access to youth support services and reduce recidivism. We have the power to transform young lives and strengthen our communities by providing a way out of ‘revolving door’ prison system,” said Rep. Lesser.

“How our justice system treats juvenile offenders not only affects individual lives and families, but has a significant long term societal impact as well,” said Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey (D-Hamden). “I’m confident in Representative Lesser’s ability to help us navigate these very serious and complicated issues, while at the same time continuing to meet his responsibilities to the families of Middletown. I appreciate Matt’s interest in taking on this important new assignment.”

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*State Representative Matt Lesser is serving his fourth term representing the 100<sup>th</sup> district of Middletown. He serves as Chair of the Banking Committee and as a member of both the Appropriations and the Government Administration and Elections Committees.*