

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GEOFF LUXENBERG
PROUDLY SERVING MANCHESTER

Dear Neighbor,

The pandemic has produced numerous challenges and exacerbated existing institutional inequities. Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked to address these new challenges as well as existing injustices by passing over 350 bills and resolutions.

I know the past year has been difficult for each individual and family in our community, and I believe the legislation passed in Hartford will empower everyone in our district. This session I advocated for equitable public health policies, increased access to mental health resources, and additional support for our seniors, schools, and small businesses. I also worked with my colleagues to pass a bipartisan budget that will strengthen our economy and invest in our infrastructure, sustainability efforts, and education. I have fought to ensure Manchester will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 through this budget. I am confident that these state investments will see our community recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic.

Please keep reading for more information on legislative highlights and resources developed this session that will benefit your family, our district, and our state.

Best,



State Representative Geoff Luxenberg



Connecting with me on Facebook is the quickest and most convenient way to receive updates concerning our community.
www.facebook.com/RepLuxenberg

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2021**

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RESPONDING TO COVID-19

- Cut unemployment insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs and paid directly into the unemployment compensation fund (PA 21-5 & SB 1202)
- Strengthened numerous programs designed to keep people from losing their homes during tough times: Foreclosure Mediation, Lien Assistance and Emergency Mortgage Assistance (SB 891)
- Increased state education funding to Manchester by 8% to keep students, teachers, and staff safe as we continue to deal with the pandemic
- Created an Unemployed Workers' Advocate to assist out-of-work residents with accessing benefits and getting back to work



DELIVERING JUSTICE FOR ALL

- Created a cutting-edge “Baby Bonds” program for our neediest residents so that every young person can have a sense of economic security (PA 21-111)
- Erased most misdemeanor crimes after 7 years and lesser felonies after 10 years (PAs 21-32 & 33)
- Ended the practice of charging prisoners to use the phone (PA 21-54)
- Banned no-knock warrants (SB 1093)
- Created a Commission on Racial Equity tasked with eliminating health disparities (PA 21-35)
- Approved better rates on student loans for teachers in Alliance Districts, like Manchester, so that we can retain talented teachers and provide our students with better educational opportunities (HB 5610)

GROWING OUR ECONOMY

- Cut red tape and made outdoor dining a permanent option for bars and restaurants (SB 1202)
- Created a tax-free week for restaurants (SB 1202)
- Approved self-pour beer and wine machines at CT bars (PA 21-50)
- Cut permit costs for nonprofit and private clubs, like the Army Navy Club and VFW (PA 21-10)
- Helped neighbors with crumbling foundations by shoring up relief funds and instituted stronger testing requirements
- Secured grants to cities and towns for broadband projects, making Connecticut a national leader when it comes to equitable broadband (PA 21-159)



Progress on Crumbling Foundations

As founder of the General Assembly's Crumbling Concrete Caucus, I am proud to say that we secured another \$100 million in bonding funds to assist residents as they repair their homes.

HEALTHCARE

- Continued coverage for and access to telehealth (HB 6470 & PA 21-9)
- Expanded workers' compensation 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 (SB 660)
- Provided new health care coverage to 40,000 qualifying residents and families regardless of their immigration status (SB 1202 & HB 6687)
- Provided better and more comprehensive training and tools for police to respond to opioid overdoses (HB 1011)
- Improved mental health first aid training for paramedics (SB 102)
- 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)



More Resources for Non-Profits

I was able to help our delegation secure increased funding to non-profits, including \$45,610 to Manchester Youth Services Bureau and \$50,000 to MARC Inc. for the next two fiscal years.

BRINGING YOUR TAX MONEY HOME

	FY 21	FY 22
LoCIP (Local Capital Improvement Project)	436,745	436,745
Town Aid Road	643,841	643,841
Grants For Municipal Projects	1,506,098	1,912,643
Education Cost Sharing	38,251,467	39,752,676
PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes)	980,303	980,303
Total State Funds To Manchester	45,699,502	47,204,836

A STRONGER DEMOCRACY

- Voters will get to decide in 2022 if Connecticut should have early, in-person voting and in 2024 there will be a question on the ballot asking if every registered voter in CT should be able to vote by absentee ballot (RA 21-1 and RA 21-2)
- Restored voting rights for individuals in community facilities or on parole (SB 1202)
- Protected voters' personal information (SB 1202)
- Paved the way for permanent drop boxes for absentee ballots (SB 1202)
- Ended prison gerrymandering – the practice of counting prisoners as if they were registered voters when determining state legislative districts (PA 21-49)
- Guaranteed two hours off from work to vote in state and federal elections (SB 1202)