

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**MARY MUSHINSKY**  
PROUDLY SERVING WALLINGFORD

Dear Neighbor,

Throughout the 2021 session, my colleagues and I worked to address pandemic challenges and fix existing inequities by passing over 350 bills and resolutions. Only a selection of them will fit into this newsletter.

I know the past year has been difficult for each individual and family in our community, and I believe the legislation we passed in Hartford will assist everyone in our district. I worked with my colleagues to pass a BIPARTISAN budget that will strengthen our economy, healthcare and education and invest in rebuilding our state. I have fought to ensure Wallingford will see an increase in funding in both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. These state investments will help our community recover and thrive as we move out of this pandemic.

Cannabis (marijuana) got all the headlines this year, but I believe the pandemic response laws were the most important. It was also great news that my requested \$750,000 grant for YMCA was finally approved. I will continue to seek passage of legislation to fight climate change and auto theft when we reconvene.

Best,

Mary Mushinsky

We honored and thanked our Capitol Police, who protect democracy with courtesy and good humor.



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UPDATE **2021**

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## STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARY MUSHINSKY

### RESPONDING TO COVID-19

- Cut unemployment insurance taxes on local businesses by excluding pandemic-related layoffs and paying directly into the fund (SS June PA 21-2)
- Ensured access to virtual visits and monitoring for nursing home residents (PA 21-55) and created a statewide policy on visitation (PA 21-71)
- Continued coverage and access to telehealth (PA 21-133)
- Expanded workers' comp benefits for PTSD to cover emergency responders, corrections workers, dispatchers and front-line health care providers who were on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic (PA 21-107)
- Reformed nursing home staffing, policies and supply inventories in response to COVID-19 (PA 21-185)
- 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)
- Increased funding to local health departments (SS June PA 21-2)

### GROWING CT'S ECONOMY, POST-COVID-19

- Streamlined workforce initiatives under a new Office of Workforce Strategy and made it easier for residents to know what colleges they can easily get into, and what certificate programs are worth taking (SS June PA 21-2)
- **Taking Care of CT's Restaurants**
  - » Created a tax-free day for restaurants (SS June PA 21-2)
  - » Cut permit costs for nonprofit and private clubs (like the VFW) (PA 21-10)
  - » Cut red tape and made outdoor dining a permanent option for bars and restaurants (SS June PA 21-2)
  - » Continued alcohol to-go and delivery sales by local bars and restaurants (PA 21-37)

### PUTTING MIDDLE-CLASS AND WORKING FAMILIES FIRST

- Provided more low-income families a break on their state income tax through the Earned Income Tax Credit (SS PA 21-2)
- Required employers to provide a salary range for job openings – making sure you don't waste your time on jobs that won't pay the bills; and that your salary negotiations are based on what the job is worth, not what you've been paid in the past (PA 21-30)
- Fought age discrimination in the workplace – limited the need for your age and other dates on job applications (PA 21-69)
- Created a new workforce pipeline program for individuals with disabilities (SA 21-10)
- **Education cost relief**
  - » Expanded childcare services for parents who are working on their education (PA 21-171)
  - » Fully funded free community college – meaning students can work on their associate degree without having to pay tuition out of pocket (SS June PA 21-2)
- **Housing cost relief**
  - » Championed new zoning reforms to deal with rising housing costs and address affordability, equity and opportunity in our communities (PA 21-29)



TOWN BUDGET SUMMARY	FY 21	FY 22
<b>LoCIP</b> (Local Capital Improvement Project)	\$287,162.00	\$287,162.00
<b>Town Aid Road</b>	\$538,127.00	\$538,127.00
<b>Grants For Municipal Projects</b>	\$2,739,896.00	\$3,481,873.00
<b>Education Cost Sharing</b>	\$20,855,570.00	\$20,855,570.00
<b>PILOT</b>	\$416,395.00	\$416,395.00
<b>Total State Funds To Town</b>	\$24,837,150.00	\$25,579,127.00

### A GREENER CT

- Created a competitive program for fuel cell projects that favors CT-made equipment and will redevelop brownfields and landfills (PA 21-162)
- Balanced ecological and recreational needs while updating our plan for Long Island Sound (HJ 53) "Blue Plan"
- Raised bottle deposits to 10 cents, applied deposits to more products and provided more money to towns and redemption centers to ensure these products don't wind up as litter or in a landfill (PA 21-58)
- Regulated the harmful chemical "PFAS" (PA 21-191)
- Improved clean-up procedures and notifications when there is a sewage spill (PA 21-42)
- Empowered towns to better manage storm water on the local level (PA 21-115)



### VETERANS

- Directed state colleges and universities to update what credits they can award based on military training (PA 21-132)
- Established a tourism trail that showcases our veteran and military destinations (PA 21-105)
- Increased funeral benefits for veterans to cover the cost of obituaries (PA 21-112)
- Improved mental health first aid training for paramedics (PA 21-134)
- Approved more resources to community providers (SS June PA 21-2)



### EQUALITY

- Improved sexual misconduct reporting, data collection, and response on CT college campuses (PA 21-81)
- Banned no-knock warrants (PA 21-33)
- Added Native American studies to the public-school curriculum (June 2021 SS PA 21-2)



- Newly legal : Adult Use of Cannabis (June SS PA 21-1)
  - » Only for those 21 and older
  - » Erasure of past marijuana convictions
  - » Home grow in 2023
  - » Majority of state proceeds go to advancing equity and substance abuse treatment (beginning in 2022)
- Legalized sports betting and online gaming (PA 21-23)
- Opened up year-round trout fishing (PA 21-12)
- Provided better training and tools for police to respond to opioid overdoses (PA 21-108)