



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2026 legislative session focused on many big issues like standing up for working families, improving quality of life, public safety, funding our schools, and the state budget.

We passed meaningful legislation in support of our police, fire, EMS, veterans, teachers, paraeducators, and health care workers. We also passed historic state funding increases to help hold the line on property taxes.

This newsletter has more details about legislation we passed and key wins for New Haven and our state.

As this will be my last session serving in the House as your State Representative, I wanted to thank all of you for your trust and support over the years. I still truly look forward to serving our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Al Paolillo in black ink.

Al Paolillo
Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE AL PAOLILLO

PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

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UPDATE 2026

Representative Al Paolillo
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



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DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
AL PAOLILLO
PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

- 860-240-8568
- Alphonse.Paolillo@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Paolillo
- facebook.com/RepPaolillo





Senator Martin Looney announced this will be his last session after 46 years of outstanding service. I truly want to thank him for all he has meant to me as a mentor and colleague, and for his stellar service and commitment to our state and New Haven

BIG WINS FOR NEW HAVEN

- **\$190 million** in public education funding for the 2026-2027 school year.
- **\$26.9 million** in increased Education and Municipal Aid to help with New Haven's school budget and local property relief.
- Over **\$3.7 million** increase in PILOT Funding.
- **\$12 million** to expand free school breakfasts across the state.
- **\$320 million** for the Early Childhood Endowment Fund.

Other New Haven Organizations Approved for State Funding over the Budget Cycle

The Friends Center, New Haven Youth Soccer, CitySeed, Haven's Harvest, Annex Little League, New Haven Youth and Recreation, JUNTA, New Haven Festival of Arts and Ideas, New Haven Arts Council, New Haven Jobs Funnel, New Haven Fire Training School.

WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:

- Expanded sales tax-free week to include clothing, shoes, and backpacks under \$300.
- Made basic school supplies tax-free, including backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, and paper.
- Created a family caregiver tax credit for residents caring for a loved one.
- Invested in our workforce and residents.

IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY

- Required staff at assisted living agencies to receive annual training on residents' fear of retaliation, so seniors can freely speak up about their care.
- Ensured residential care home residents can set up cameras to stay connected with family and monitor their care.
- Created a new tuition and mortgage assistance program for first responders and ramped up efforts to hire and train more police officers and firefighters.
- Expanded a successful program that partners police with mental health workers.



Sen. Looney and Rep. Paolillo host students visiting from Nathan Hale School



IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

Bills that I helped sponsor:

- Passed law that requires elevator repair notices and imposes duties on the owners of residential buildings.
- Increased the fine for abandoned boats and allows municipalities to recover reasonable costs, including legal costs, the cost of recovery or removal.
- Imposed restrictions on juice bars with a history of violations, allowed cities to regulate operating hours, and prohibit alcohol sales. Also strengthened regulations on vape shops.
- Doubled the fine for illegal mufflers and exhaust pipes and suspended licenses for people who continue to illegally pass school buses.