

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear Neighbor,

It has been a privilege and honor to serve my first term as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

I am proud of my voting record, which indicates a strong support for public safety, small business, public education, seniors and veterans. I have made it a priority to work across party lines and I remain committed to a moderate approach that involves compromise, negotiation and working together.

We worked hard to deliver a bipartisan budget that adheres to fiscal guardrails that reign in spending, pay down debt, and save for a rainy day. At the same time, we developed a budget that reduced the state income tax for the first time in history and broadened tax relief benefits for seniors, making CT more affordable for everyone. My budget vote brought an estimated \$710,045 of education funding to Southington for FY 24-25, will save the town an estimated \$1.7 million in pension obligations, and included a grant of \$500,000 to complete the dredging of Sloper Pond.

I'd love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.



Representative Chris Poulos
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

- Voted for \$164 million in new funding to local boards of education.
- Supported legislation to increase teacher voice and engagement in public education during the planning and implementation of initiatives that impact our children's education.
- Reformed teacher evaluation, making it more meaningful for educators.
- Required a state audit of all standardized testing.
- Created a working group to address indoor air quality concerns in schools.
- Required funds from the state's legal settlement with vape-giant JUUL to go to helping young people under 21.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
CHRIS POULOS
 PROUDLY SERVING SOUTHINGTON
CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

CHRIS POULOS

PROUDLY SERVING SOUTHINGTON

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS POULOS CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

BIPARTISAN VOTING RECORD

- Passed a balanced, bipartisan budget including historic tax cuts
- Passed legislation that expands on laws to prevent the theft of catalytic converters
- Passed support for active service members, veterans, & military families
- Passed digital regulations protecting children's data collection
- Passed expanded GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders
- Passed restrictions on telemarketers and other online solicitors



I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES



OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS

- ✓ \$600 million middle class tax cut
- ✓ Increased **Earned Income Tax Credit** for lower income workers
- ✓ Expanded 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 Southington**



RELIEF FOR OUR SENIORS

- Voted to exempt 100% of social security and retirement income for individuals making \$75,000 or less annually (\$100,000 for joint filers) from state income tax.
- Extended state income tax exemptions on social security and retirement income by phasing-out the deduction for individuals making up to \$100,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers).
- Offset local property tax increases by reforming retirement plans for municipal employees – saving Southington taxpayers approximately \$1.7 million in FY24.
- Strengthened patients' involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints.
- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services including primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals.



SUPPORTS LOCAL BUSINESSES

- Followed through on Department of Transportation funding (\$4.3 million) and approvals for Plantsville Safety Improvement Project, which will not only beautify and make downtown Plantsville safer but will ultimately contribute to its economic development.
- Facilitated both state licensing and federal grant applications for local businesses.
- Cut the number of onerous reporting requirements for businesses.
- Supported CT farm operations, including wineries, by allowing them to open up to three retail locations.
- Made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects.



PUBLIC SAFETY

- Supported and will continue to advocate for severe and swift consequences for those who break the law in our community.
- Worked to address the increase in auto crimes by expanding previous laws to prevent the theft of catalytic converters.
- Increased penalties for street racing, motor vehicle stunts, and street takeovers in off-street lots or public roads.
- Made it illegal for adults to solicit any photos and videos from children online.
- Required bright orange labels on prescription opiates.
- OPPOSED broadening eligibility for parole and commutations, limiting how police interrogate suspects, softening consequences for juveniles, and obstacles to prosecuting criminals.