



Dear Neighbor,

I am proud to share some historic highlights from the 2022 legislative session.

Historic like more than \$650 million in tax cuts. Historic like our investment in the mental health of our children. Historic like our commitment to growing jobs and our economy. Historic like a state budget that pays off millions in pension debt and continues our record budget reserves while investing in Waterbury, schools, mental health, public safety and programs that work - all while honoring the spending cap.

That's not to say we aren't facing challenges. We are seeing inflation that hits everyone's wallets and a housing market pricing many people out of even modest homes. That's why I fought hard to provide you with relief: increasing the property tax credit, phasing out taxes on retirement income, creating a child tax payment, cutting the gas tax and more.

I hope you find this newsletter packed with useful information. It is my pleasure to serve as your state representative.

All my best,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GERALDO REYES JR.

PROUDLY SERVING WATERBURY

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

Representative Gerald Reyes Jr.
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GERALDO REYES JR.
PROUDLY SERVING WATERBURY

- 860-240-8585
- Geraldo.Reyes@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Reyes
- facebook.com/RepGeraldoReyes





2022 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Addressing Children’s Mental Health Needs
- Cutting Taxes to Combat Historic Inflation
- Keeping CT Safe with Juvenile Justice Reform
- Making CT More Affordable
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT’s Future Fiscal Integrity

JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

RESPONDED TO JUVENILE CRIME, AUTO THEFTS & PANDEMIC-RELATED CRIME DIVERSION:

- Invested in Youth Service Bureaus and Juvenile Review Boards
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- Expanded alternatives to incarceration

KEEPING THE PUBLIC SAFE:

- Expanded hands-on training for police
- Addressed laboratory and case backlogs
- Expanded use of GPS monitoring
- Toughened penalties for vehicle thefts
- Created more crisis training for our police
- Funded state and local task forces to address gun violence & auto thefts

I VOTED TO CUT YOUR TAXES

OUR STATE BUDGET INCLUDES

\$650 MILLION IN TAX RELIEF

- ✔ Creates a Child Tax Credit
- ✔ Cuts property taxes for retirees
- ✔ Cuts the car tax
- ✔ Extends the gas tax cut
- ✔ Extends free bus service
- ✔ Ends pension and annuity tax
- ✔ Invests in healthcare workers



MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Provided grants to local schools to hire more support staff, including in the areas of mental health: social workers, psychologists, and counselors
- Funded the expansion of school-based health centers and the services they provide
- Created new walk-ins for mental health emergencies
- Initiated a new position at the Healthcare Advocate to help families navigate care for children and adolescents
- Expanded 24/7 emergency mental health response
- Established state oversight and coordination of state response to kids’ mental health needs
- Helped school-based health centers develop new mental health programming
- Provided mental health training to parents, students, and pediatricians



CUTTING THE CAR TAX

- Decreased the motor vehicle mill rate cap from 45 to 32.46 mills, beginning in FY 23
- Made corresponding changes to the grant formula that is designed to reimburse municipalities & tax districts for a portion of the revenue loss attributed to the motor vehicle mill rate cap
- The new law also (1) exempts snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and utility trailers used exclusively for personal purposes from property tax; (2) modifies the timeline for supplemental property tax bills; and (3) requires taxpayers to include certain vehicles on their personal property declarations