



The 2026 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I want to share some highlights in this newsletter. It was a jam-packed session full of big ideas and important policies. What were people saying about the 2026 session? Here's a taste:

- Making Historic Investments in Police, Fire, EMS, & Veterans**

- CT Mirror
- Connecticut budget adds free school breakfasts, ends sales tax on school supplies**

- Hearst CT
- No-excuse absentee ballots make voting more accessible for those facing impediments to in-person voting due to disability and mobility limitations, lack of transportation, childcare or caretaking duties, or work schedules**

- Office of Governor Ned Lamont
- Additional funding heading for Connecticut school districts**

- NBC 30

This newsletter provides details about legislation we passed and key policy initiatives from the 2026 session. I hope you find it informative.

Enjoy,

Geraldo C. Reyes Jr.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE / DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
GERALDO REYES JR.

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UPDATE 2026**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

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BIG WINS FOR CONNECTICUT

SEWAGE BILL – RIGHT TO KNOW

To make water quality data even more accessible, lawmakers have been updating the Sewage Right To Know legislation to mandate real-time public bypass maps, online report postings, and physical warning signs near discharge locations. You can review the legislative text for this update for House Bill 5522 via CGA.CT.GOV

MICROTRANSIT CONTINUING

Connecticut's microtransit legislation is primarily driven by Senate Bill 9, which officially extended the state's on-demand microtransit pilot program into a three-year initiative. The sweeping transportation bill provides ongoing funding to expand and maintain accessible, app-based ride-sharing services across dozens of municipalities and rural areas.

STATE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

- \$190 million in additional direct support for schools
- \$100 million to mitigate local tax increases
- \$12 million to establish universal free school breakfast programs across the state
- \$4 million to help communities where hospitals abruptly came off the tax rolls
- Expanded grants for successful special education programs
- Created numerous grants to towns to address rising costs associated with construction and purchasing

FUNDING FOR WATERBURY

Representing Waterbury is a privilege. When I work with my colleagues on the state budget, it is always top of mind.

This year we secured an increase of:

\$15.1 MILLION

for Education

\$6.5 MILLION

for Town Aid

\$21.6 MILLION

in total additional funds



MANDATORY PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR HOMEOWNERS

Connecticut laws require municipalities to provide property tax relief for specific groups of taxpayers, such as those who are seniors, veterans, or have a disability. Additionally, some taxpayers are eligible for an exemption for using certain renewable energy sources and an income tax credit for paying property taxes.

OTHER TAX RELIEF

The legislature made a number of tax changes as part of its budget adjustments. Among the most notable provisions, the adjustments:

- create a research and development tax credit for qualifying small businesses that applies against the state's personal income tax
- create an income tax credit for income-eligible family caregivers who incur eligible expenditures to care for and support an eligible family member
- create a sales and use tax exemption for nonelectronic school supplies that are bought for nonbusiness purposes
- increase the exemption amount for sales tax free week from \$100 to \$300 and add backpacks and cleated shoes to the list of items that can be bought tax-free



SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

- The Aging in Place program requires the Department of Aging & Disability Services, in consultation with the Department of Housing, to create a program to give grants to eligible homeowners for making accessibility modifications that enable them to remain in their primary residence
- Beginning February 1, 2028, a new law generally requires each nursing home that is a Medicaid provider to be fully controlled by its licensee. Unless the Department of Social Services (DSS) grants a nursing home a one-year waiver, by this date, the licensee must have full control over the nursing home's governance, assets, and activities. The law also requires these homes to attest to the Department of Public Health (DPH) each year that no investment company has control over the home's resident health, safety, or care. Nursing homes that do not comply with this attestation requirement may be fined up to \$2,000