

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative and as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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. We worked hard to deliver a budget that is balanced while still providing hundreds of millions in additional funding to our local schools, colleges and universities, and services for our most vulnerable residents.

We did it by working together in a bipartisan fashion.

I'd love to hear from you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or my office if you have any questions, feedback, or ideas.

All my best,

Matt Ritter

PUBLIC LIBRARY RESTORATION

- Speaker Ritter secured more than \$3 million in state funding to restore and renovate Hartford Public Library's Downtown Branch following a devastating flooding event in December.



Above: Speaker Ritter views flooding damage at HPL's Downtown Branch prior to a June announcement of state funding.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE & SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

MATT RITTER

PROUDLY SERVING HARTFORD



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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

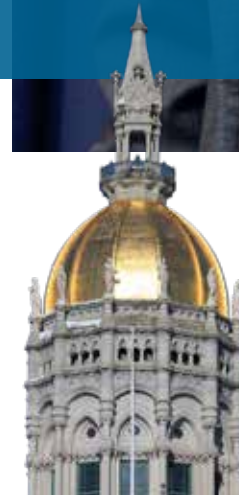
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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MATT RITTER

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Left: Speaker Ritter presides over the House of Representatives as bills are passed on the final day of the legislative session.

Right: Speaker Ritter welcomes the National Champion UConn Men's Basketball Team to the Capitol in April.

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

- Increased state funding to Hartford Public Schools to \$220,684,799 by 2025
- Required high school students to take a financial literacy class before graduating
- Expanded debt-free community college - including subsidies for returning students
- Created a Student Loan Ombudsman to help students, graduates, and their families deal with student loans

ADDRESSING LOCAL FLOODING

- Allocated \$170 million in state funding for shovel-ready sewer upgrade projects in the North End of Hartford
- Developed a \$5 million fund to retroactively address flooding damage to homes in the North End
- Built a framework to address future impacts of flooding in Hartford and throughout the state



Above: Speaker Ritter announces state funding for an historic investment in sewer upgrades in the North End of Hartford.

2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:



CUTTING YOUR TAXES

Our budget includes the **largest Personal Income Tax cut in state history** by cutting income tax rates and eliminating even more retirement income taxes. We also **increased the State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** to 40%, delivering more relief to working families.



IDD SUPPORT

Our budget **invests over \$30 million to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals** by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, increasing Husky C eligibility, and breaking down barriers for better coordination and data collection.



SAFETY NET SERVICES

Our budget expands Temporary Family Cash Assistance, increases Medicaid eligibility for our most vulnerable residents, provides funds to community action agencies for residents facing immediate economic hardship, and increases Medicaid reimbursements for providers and specialists.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Our budget invests in more affordable housing development, 24/7 operation of the 2-1-1 Housing Crisis support line, and allocates \$5 million for upgrades to homelessness prevention programs.



Above: Speaker Ritter addresses the 2023-2024 cohort of Hartford Promise scholars at their August orientation.

UPGRADING HARTFORD PARKS

- Allocated \$200,000 for a planning grant to develop a new Nature, Education, & History Center at Keney Park
- Provided state funding for the development of "Coach Phelan's Court" in Elizabeth Park



Above: The first pickup game on the brand new "Coach Phelan's Court" in Elizabeth Park.



Above: Speaker Ritter visits the Swift Factory to learn about community-driven redevelopment occurring in the North End.