

STATE REPRESENTATIVE | MAJORITY LEADER  
**JASON ROJAS**

Dear Neighbor,

As we move into the holiday season, I wanted to take a moment to provide you with a summary of several major pieces of legislation we passed during the 2021 legislative session to improve our community and state.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit our state in March 2020, I've helped constituents with issues ranging from filing unemployment insurance claims, to finding masks and personal protective equipment, to knowing where to get vaccinated. I kept these experiences in mind when we convened this year's legislative session in January and made it my goal to strengthen our social safety net, address the systemic issues the pandemic exacerbated, and jump start our economic recovery from the pandemic. I am proud of the progress we made in these areas and I look forward to continuing our work to create a more just and equitable state.

In addition to serving as your Representative, this session my legislative colleagues elected me to be the House Majority Leader. This provides an opportunity for the perspectives of our friends and neighbors in East Hartford and Manchester to guide our work in the House Chamber. The legislative process never ends, so if you support, oppose, or would like to know more about any proposal for legislative action, please reach out anytime.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to represent you in Hartford.

Best,



Jason

For more information and to sign up for my weekly e-blast scan here:



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE | HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER  
**JASON ROJAS**  
PROUDLY SERVING EAST HARTFORD & MANCHESTER



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UPDATE **2021**



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## SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

- \$300K to preserve the Lombardo Farm
- \$950K to renovate the East Hartford High School softball field, and the locker rooms at both East Hartford Middle & High School
- \$400K to maintain the historic Veteran Memorial Clubhouse
- \$500K to the East Hartford Senior Center to purchase a back-up generator
- Fully funded the Crumbling Foundations program (CFSIC)
- \$100K to MARC Inc. to support the work they do
- The new Community Investment Fund authorizes up to \$875 million for projects in Alliance Districts like Manchester & East Hartford
- \$68,122 to the East Hartford Police Department and \$122,611 to the Manchester Police Department to purchase body cameras, dash cameras for cruisers, and storage for video.



Rep. Rojas standing in front of the Lois Nolan Larson Community Center, which received \$1.5 million in funding for renovations.

## STRENGTHENING OUR DEMOCRACY

There is no right more fundamental than the right to participate in our democracy. This session, I worked to expand access to voting by passing resolutions that will allow voters to decide if our state constitution will be amended to permit early voting and no excuse absentee voting.

Fair representation in our democracy is just as important as participation, we ended the practice of prison gerrymandering in state legislative districts. As part of the redistricting process happening now, incarcerated individuals will be counted as residents of their last town of residence rather than as residents of the town where their correctional facility is located.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# JASON ROJAS

## HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER



Rep. Rojas speaking to members of the Manchester Land Trust at Bush Hill Preserve.

## DELIVERING A STATE BUDGET

Working with our Republican colleagues, we passed a two-year budget with a \$2.3 billion surplus that will help to move our state forward by:

### Investing in our community:

- Increases funding for our local public schools and expands early childcare programs.
- Funds the debt-free community college initiative so that every student can pursue higher education without accruing debt.
- Maintains our commitment to our seniors by continuing to phase out the state income tax on pensions and annuities.

### Investing in our workers:

- Increases the “Earned Income Tax Credit” to support low-income workers
- Creates a new affordable health insurance program, “Covered Connecticut,” to provide improved health insurance to 40,000 residents.

### Investing in our businesses:

- Expands workforce training programs.
- Provides targeted financial assistance for those businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Importantly, we did this while preserving the state’s historically high rainy-day fund and without broad-based tax increases.

## SUPPORTING CT’S ECONOMY

We worked with local businesses to better understand their needs and passed several important pro-business and pro-worker initiatives this session:

- Revamped the successful “Small Business Express” program to encourage more private investment in local small businesses, further increasing the amount of funding available.
- Working with businesses and labor union leaders, we significantly redesigned Connecticut’s workforce pipeline to be more responsive to the needs of workers and businesses.
- Reduced unemployment taxes for most Connecticut businesses and ensured that those businesses that use the fund the most pay their fair share.

Together these programs will not just help to jumpstart our economy following the COVID-induced recession but will grow our state long-term.

## SUPPORTING OUR KIDS

Following a year of on-and-off remote learning, my legislative colleagues and I focused on improving the social-emotional supports we offer our kids as well as our education standards. We passed comprehensive legislation to establish a youth suicide prevention training program, provide students mental health days, and require social-emotional learning training for teachers. In addition, we developed a commission to study successful online learning strategies and how we can implement these tools to support our students throughout their academic careers.



Rep. Rojas with kids and staff at YMCA Camp Nowashe in Mayberry School.

## AID TO OUR TOWNS

### GENERAL GOVERNMENT AID

### EDUCATION

### BONDING TOTAL AID

### TOTAL

## EAST HARTFORD

\$4,475,555

\$56,872,026

\$9,086,855

\$70,434,436

## MANCHESTER

\$2,173,107

\$40,533,165

\$2,993,229

\$45,699,501