



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 rainy day fund while investing in Norwalk's 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 housing prices that are pricing many 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 childcare rebate, 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
TRAVIS SIMMS

PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK



**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2022**

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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 for Residents
- Creating Environmentally Conscious Initiatives
- Maintaining CT’s Future Fiscal Integrity

EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

Supporting our Teachers

- Extended the renewal time for teaching certificates
- Ensured teachers get an uninterrupted 30 minutes for lunch
- Expanded scholarships for minority teachers

Giving Schools the Tools They Need to Succeed

- Ensured more districts will meet eligibility requirements for the federal School Breakfast Program
- Doubled grants to school districts for bilingual education
- Established new reimbursement grant to assist schools in upgrading their HVAC systems, and ensured regular inspections and reporting on their operation

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

STATE FUNDING FOR NORWALK

Norwalk City & Education	\$29.8 million
State Grants for City Projects	\$20.5 million
Norwalk School Construction	\$242 million
Non-Profits & Organizations	\$9.47 million

\$296 MILLION TOTAL IN STATE FUNDING

SUPPORTING VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

- Guaranteed CT veterans in-state tuition rates
- Adopted higher department equipment standards, collecting better data on the prevalence of cancer among firefighters, and secured more local funding for firefighters who leave service with a cancer diagnosis
- Provided funding to local volunteer fire departments who respond to emergencies on certain state highways
- Expanded special relief funding for front line workers who had to work during COVID



GROWING NORWALK’S ECONOMY

- Lowered the business tax rate for unemployment insurance
- Established JobsCT program – helping companies in target industries earn rebates against insurance premiums and state taxes for meeting job targets
- Provided support to museums, theaters and other CT attractions
- Supported CT residents with CDL training
- Made direct investments in community nonprofits
- Expanded successful Manufacturing Pipeline program
- Increased work opportunities for young adults
- New paid internship program at DOT
- Provided parents and students with more occupational opportunities and helped schools partner with more local businesses