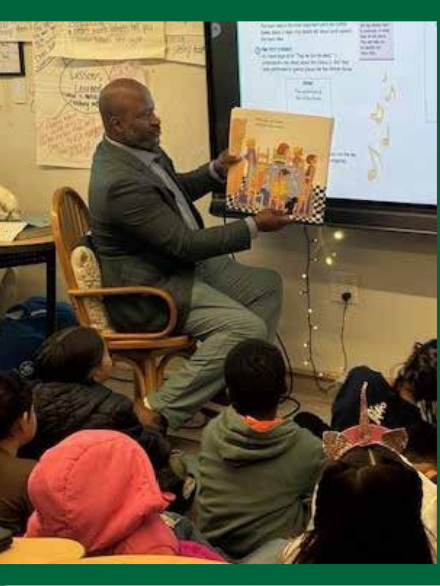




Dear Neighbor,

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. Here's a taste:

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

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

Enjoy,

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TRAVIS SIMMS

PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK

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



**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

Representative Travis Simms
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TRAVIS SIMMS
PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK

- 860-240-8585
- Travis.Simms@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Simms
- facebook.com/@StateRepSimms





MADE CONNECTICUT MORE AFFORDABLE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

- Expanded sales tax-free week to include clothing, shoes and backpacks under \$300
- Made basic school supplies tax-free, including backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers and paper
- Created a family caregiver tax credit for residents caring for a loved one
- Delivered on our promise to support early childhood education by investing \$300 million in the Early Childhood Education Endowment

TOOK AIM AT PROPERTY TAXES

- \$162 million new Education Equalization Grant to address underfunding in our current school funding formula
- \$100 million in new funding to cities and towns

ADDED PROTECTIONS FOR TENANTS

- Created state fines for landlords who don't return your security deposit
- Strengthened laws that require individual meters for separate electric bills at rental units

PROTECTED OUR SENIORS

- Required home health aide agencies to provide gloves, masks, and other personal protective equipment to their workers at no cost
- Strengthened state audits of Medicaid rates at nursing homes
- Promoted smaller styles of nursing homes for more person-centered care



OVER \$300 MILLION RELIEF PACKAGE FOR CITIES, TOWNS AND SCHOOLS

- \$190 million in additional direct support for schools
 - Norwalk received an extra \$1.9 million
- \$100 million to mitigate local tax increases
 - Norwalk saw an extra \$1.5 million
- \$12 million to establish universal free school breakfast programs across the state
- Expanded grants for successful special education programs
- Created numerous grants to towns to address rising costs associated with construction and purchasing
- \$4 million to help communities where hospitals abruptly came off the tax rolls

SMART FINANCE POLICY WITHOUT TAX INCREASES OR PARTISAN POLITICS

- Continued our commitment to responsible budgeting by putting \$1 billion toward paying down long-term debt
- Deposited another \$50 million into our emergency federal response fund
- Maintained our Budget Reserve Fund (often called "rainy day fund") at a historic level

