



Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and an honor to serve as your state representative. 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 together to deliver a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while still providing hundreds of millions in more funding to our local schools, colleges and universities, and services for our most vulnerable residents. As part of our historic tax cuts, families of four who make under \$50,000 annually will pay no state income taxes. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

I'd love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,

BIG WINS FOR MILFORD

- Largest tax cut in CT history
- More cuts to retirement income taxes
- Historic funding for schools
- Massive deposit into Rainy Day Fund
- Sensible/sustainable budget
- Modern voting system with early voting
- Investment in growing healthcare workforce



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRANK SMITH

PROUDLY SERVING MILFORD

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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

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NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT 2023 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES THE

LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✔ \$600 million tax cut for middle class
- ✔ Increase in Earned Income Tax Credit for lower income workers
- ✔ Elimination of more retirement income taxes

INVESTS:

- ✔ More funding for K-12 education
- ✔ More funding for higher education
- ✔ More funding for nonprofits
- ✔ More funding for childcare
- ✔ More funding for Milford

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Solid Waste Management:** Responded to the municipal solid waste crisis with new funding for facilities and mandatory food scrap diversion at hospitals, colleges, and nursing homes.
- **Coastal Resiliency:** Continued to advocate and collaborate for robust shoreline resiliency with local and federal authorities.
- **Harmful Chemicals:** Provided additional funding to towns to deal with harmful chemicals like PFAS.
- **Horseshoe Crabs:** Banned the hand harvesting of horseshoe crabs that has decimated their numbers on Connecticut shores.
- **Green Building:** Expanded eligibility for Microgrid and Resilience Loans – allowing the state to build more green buildings.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BILLS WE PASSED

Scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit tinyurl.com/bddrbfpb



MAKING CONNECTICUT SAFER

- **Domestic Violence:** Expanded GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders.
- **Data Collection:** Improved data collection on use and compliance with police body and dashboard cameras. Improved data collection on crimes involving firearms.
- **Gun Permits:** Created electronic notifications for expiring gun permits.
- **Allergy Awareness:** Required trained EMTs to carry and use EpiPens.



ELECTIONS AND VOTING

- **Expanded Absentee Voting:** Passed resolution to amend the state constitution by removing its current restrictions on absentee voting as is law in most states. This will appear on the general election ballot in November 2024.
- **In-Person Early Voting:** Passed legislation establishing a 14-day early voting period for general elections, a seven-day period for most primaries, and a four-day period for special elections and the presidential preference primary. This authorizes early voting for elections on or after April 1, 2024.
- **Civics Engagement:** I led the charge to pass my bill to establish a Civics Engagement, Education and Media Literacy Task Force to study and develop strategies to improve and promote civic engagement and instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy, and American government.

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS

- **Elimination of More Taxes on Retirement:** Current law exempts 100% of pension and annuity income from the state's income tax, and we are halfway to phasing out 100% of IRA income for those making \$75,000 or less annually (\$100,000 for joint filers).
- **Expanded Medicaid Coverage** for services like primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals.
- **Adult Day Services:** Expanded eligibility for seniors to participate in adult day services (serving those with early onset dementia).
- **Elderly Nutrition:** Increased funding for Meals on Wheels.
- **Senior Security:** Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed.
- **Homemaker Services:** Strengthened patient's involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints.