



Dear Neighbor,

It remains a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session has ended, 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 balanced budget that strengthens Connecticut's finances and economy while still providing services and millions in additional funding for Bridgeport services and schools. We also increased funding to support our most vulnerable residents in Bridgeport. Best of all, as part of our historic tax cuts, **nearly all Bridgeport residents will see an income tax cut.** Families of four who make \$50,000 annually will pay no state income taxes. This is another important step in making Connecticut affordable for everyone.

We did it by working together - without the fighting you see in Washington.

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,



# NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE STAFSTROM

PROUDLY SERVING BRIDGEPORT

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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## BIG WINS FOR BRIDGEPORT

This session the legislature passed a two- year state budget that provides \$600 million in tax relief for working families. This budget cuts more taxes than any other budget we've passed in decades.

Thanks to the hard work of the Bridgeport delegation, our city will receive millions of dollars in new state aid, which allowed the city to pass a budget that will **not raise property taxes**. The city will also receive nearly \$400 million in state education funding for **Bridgeport public schools** during the next two school years.

Construction is starting on our new state-funded **Ellsworth Park Little League fields**. Additionally, we were able to secure \$15 million to renovate **Total Mortgage Arena**. This funding will be used to update the arena's HVAC system and modernize and improve the infrastructure. We also secured funds for flood mitigation efforts along the **Rooster River**, to protect our neighborhoods from the devastating effects of flooding caused by extreme weather.

In addition to municipal funding, the budget package also makes ground-breaking investments in programs for our residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities, creates an innovative student loan forgiveness program, lays the groundwork for early voting, and invests in childcare, education, and our workforce.

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES THE

# LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✓ Nearly all Bridgeport residents will see an income tax cut
- ✓ Increase Earned Income Tax Credit for lower income workers
- ✓ Expand cuts to retirement savings to benefit seniors

## INVESTS:

- ✓ More funding for K-12 education
- ✓ More funding for higher education
- ✓ More funding for nonprofits
- ✓ More funding for childcare
- ✓ **MORE FUNDING FOR BRIDGEPORT**



## LEADING THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Connecticut's crime rate continues to drop, and as chair of the Judiciary Committee, I was proud to lead the way. I am pleased to announce that I was able to help enact ground-breaking policies that will:

- Limit and/or prohibit the use of deceptive interrogation tactics
- Require DOC and DMV to ensure that someone released from prison has a valid ID
- Increase the age eligibility for parole on lengthy sentences to 21
- Implement "clean slate" expungement of certain criminal records
- Require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to come up with a protocol for seat belts in police cars to avoid severe injuries



## THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STRENGTHENING OF OUR GUN LAWS IN TEN YEARS

As mass shootings and other firearm offenses are on the rise across the country, it is important that Connecticut doesn't fall victim to that trend. That's why I was happy to lead the charge in working on the most comprehensive gun reform law since the Sandy Hook tragedy. Some things this legislation does:

- Restricts open carry
- Closes the loophole on Ghost Guns, making all Ghost Guns illegal
- Limits a person to purchasing only 3 handguns in a 30-day period
- Requires various gun safety measures, including the safe storage of all firearms and requiring trigger locks
- Expands our assault weapons ban
- Updates training requirements
- Strengthens penalties for failure to report lost or stolen guns