



Dear Neighbor,

The 2024 legislative session is in the books, and I am proud of what we accomplished.

My goal for the session was to ensure we invested in our priorities while preserving the state tax cuts and fiscal stability we have seen in recent years.

In addition, we focused on election integrity, expanding paid family leave, protecting seniors, making our state safer and delivering funding to grow and improve Bridgeport. This newsletter has more details.

I remain filled with deep gratitude and pride to be your state representative.

All my best,



# NEW LAWS FOR 2024-25

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVE STAFSTROM

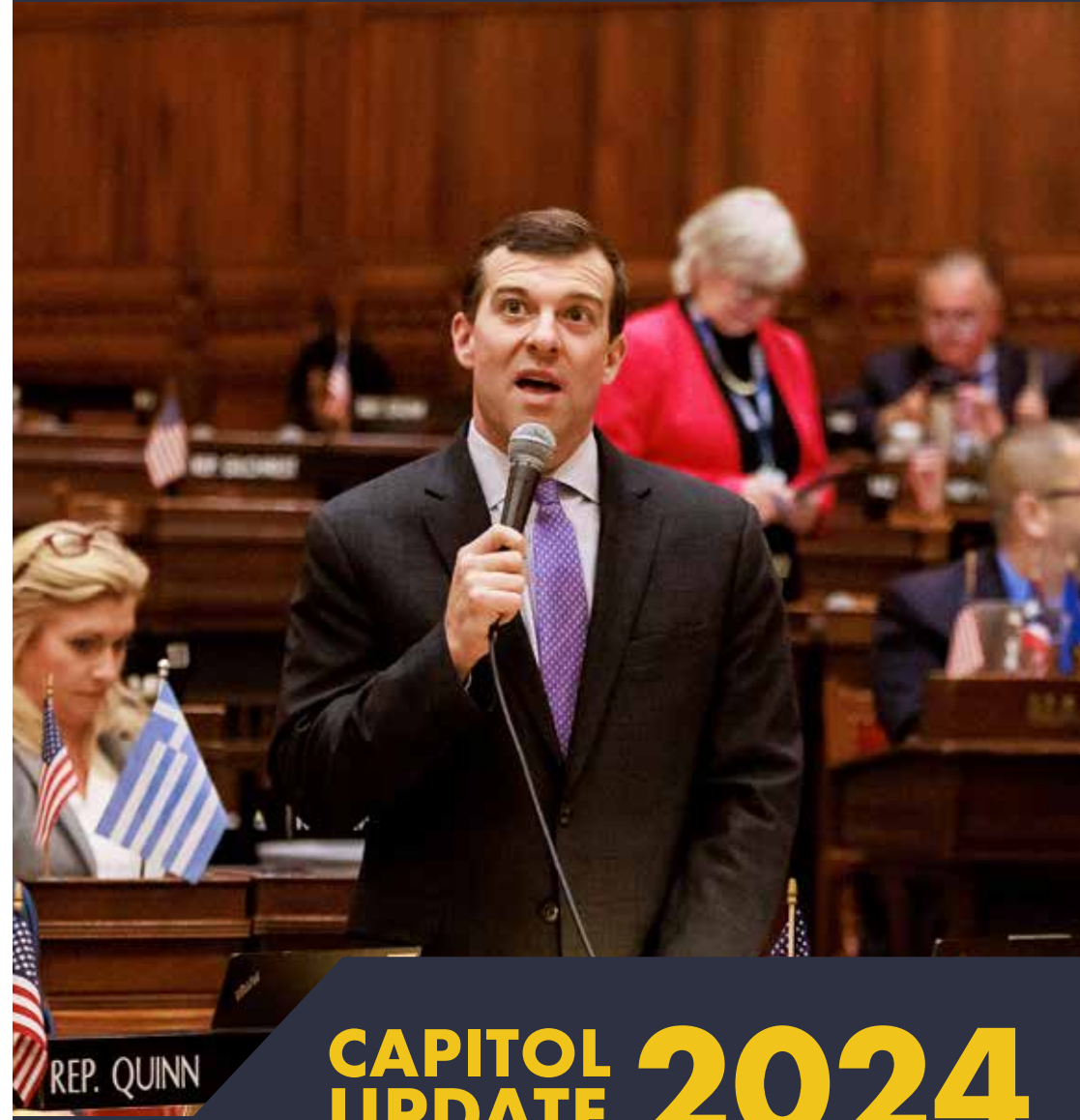
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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

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# CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
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## FUNDING FOR BRIDGEPORT

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**. **Bridgeport public schools** received nearly \$200 million in state education funding for next year. In addition to education funding, I also helped secure \$160 million for higher education, \$21.8 million for early childcare, \$24 million for mental health, and \$50 million for our hard-working nonprofits.

I'm happy to announce that construction has progressed on our new state-funded **Ellsworth Park Little League fields** and renovations to **Total Mortgage Arena**. We also completed state-funded pedestrian improvements to the newly renamed **Fairfield-Black Rock Train Station** and, we secured \$8 million to assist in bringing **Professional Soccer** to Bridgeport.

## ELECTION SECURITY

Election integrity is the foundation of a functional democracy. That's why I worked tirelessly this legislative session to ensure that those who violate that integrity are held responsible. Some of the legislation I helped author and pass will:

- Extend the statute of limitations for election-related crimes, so that if wrongdoing is found then that individual can be prosecuted
- Require municipalities to video record absentee ballot drop boxes during elections and release the recordings to the public
- Require town clerks to track how they receive absentee ballots and report the information to the Secretary of the State
- Require town clerks to maintain a log of individuals who have requested applications, which include their name and address as well as how many applications they have requested
- Limits the number of absentee ballot applications a person may request 90 days or more before an election

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET PROTECTS 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 continues to be one of the safest states in the nation, and as chair of the Judiciary Committee I'm proud to lead the way. Some of the legislation I authored and helped pass will:

- Require the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to come up with a policy on when police officers may mute their body cameras
- Improve firearm purchase background checks by having the state share more data with other states and federal agencies
- Clarify and expedite the process for individuals seeking compensation for being wrongfully incarcerated
- Increase the amount an incarcerated individual can be paid for work
- Seek to deter "Street takeovers"



## United Illuminating's proposed Fairfield-Bridgeport "Monopole" transmission line project will have a devastating impact on our community

Unfortunately, the Connecticut Siting Council has proven itself as unwilling or unable to protect us. That's why I am leading the charge in reforming the Siting Council to put our communities' interests first. New legislation we passed this year will:

- Bar members of the Siting Council to have relations with a utility company for at least three years prior to being a member
- Require the Siting Council to consider the community economic impact of a proposed transmission line
- Require a transmission line applicant to meet with municipal and legislative leaders prior to applying
- Allow a municipality to propose preferred locations for new transmission lines
- Allow anyone to be an intervenor of an application if they submit a written petition
- Prohibit the Siting Council from approving an application unless they find a public need and consider public safety and public health
- Create a buffer zone on proposed transmission lines for residential areas
- Reimburse a municipality its legal fees for fighting the utility company on our behalf in court