



With members of the 27th District Teachers' Advisory Council, including (from left to right) Chris Klatt, Marco Tirillo, Jennifer Rodriguez, and Amy Perrotti.

Dear Neighbor,

It remains an honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session ended in June with many successes that I believe will benefit you and your family. This includes passing a budget that cuts hundreds of millions in taxes, increases funding to Newington and New Britain, especially in the area of education, and pays down state debt to set Connecticut up for future success.

Important new laws and policy changes, which I am proud to have advocated for, were also passed such as expanding access to reproductive rights, establishing an early voting system, protecting the right to vote, making our communities safer, and helping make Connecticut a more affordable place to live.

Please contact me at any time if you need anything. I host a monthly event that you can find on my social media or through my email newsletter. Please join me at one of these events.

Sincerely,

BIG WINS FOR NEWINGTON & NEW BRITAIN

- **Cut income taxes for all individuals making \$150k or less and families making \$300k or less**
- **Further eliminated taxes for retirees' pension and annuity, as well as IRA income**
- **Increased total funding for the next two years by over \$3 million for Newington and over \$15 million for New Britain, with a large portion going to our schools**



CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

Representative Gary Turco
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

2023 CAPITOL UPDATE

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE GARY TURCO

PROUDLY SERVING NEWINGTON AND NEW BRITAIN

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATES IN CONNECTICUT

2023 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

GARY TURCO

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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES THE

LARGEST TAX CUT IN STATE HISTORY

- ✔ \$600 million middle class tax cut
- ✔ Increased Earned Income Tax Credit for lower income workers
- ✔ Expanded 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 NEWINGTON & NEW BRITAIN

BETTER SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

We took major steps this legislative session toward improving services by expanding housing programs and addressing lengthy waiting lists for individuals awaiting services for autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The legislation focuses on numerous other areas as well, such as bolstering work opportunities and training programs, strengthening statewide coordination of programming, reinforcing special education oversight and transition services, and improving transportation services (PA 23-137).

It is my goal to continue to work on finding solutions for individuals with disabilities to receive the assistance they need and bring a sense of relief and peace of mind to guardians and family caregivers.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION THAT WE PASSED

- Increased funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels (PA 23-204)
- Expanded debt-free community college and created a new student loan relief program (PA 23-204)
- Expanded school meal programs (PA 23-204)
- Provided additional funding to fire departments for PFAS cleanup (PA 23-74)
- Enhanced protections against auto-renewal subscription (PA 23-191)
- Froze increases on the diesel tax to help lower the cost of groceries (PA 23-204)
- Updated Connecticut's ban on unregistered "ghost guns" (PA 23-53)

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BILLS WE PASSED

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



(Top Left) Presenting Eagle Scout award with Sen. Lesser to Topher Page, with his parents Lynn and Mitch Page; (Top Right) Speaking at the Newington Humane Society; (Bottom) Hosting a constituent meeting at Alvarium Roasting Company with Sen. Rick Lopes.



Joining Newington Fire Commissioners Brian Whalen and Frank Demaio to secure funding at the State Capitol for PFAS cleanup (PA 23-74).

EXPANDING VOTING ACCESS AND PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

Protecting our democracy is one of the most important roles I have as your state representative. This session we passed two important new laws to do that:

- We passed a historic state voting rights act to protect your right to vote by banning discrimination in voting and prohibiting any city or town from engaging in intimidating, deceptive, or obstructive acts (PA 23-204)
- Thanks to the voters approving a constitutional amendment last fall, we were able to pass legislation to implement early voting starting in 2024 (PA 23-5). To build on that, we passed a resolution that will allow voters another choice to amend the state constitution to allow no-excuse absentee ballots, which worked well during the pandemic, and will be on the ballot during the November 2024 general election (HJ-1)

MAKING OUR ROADWAYS SAFE

2022 was the deadliest year in decades on Connecticut roadways. Driving habits, unfortunately, changed for the worse during the pandemic, and it was my top priority this session to take action to make our roads safer for everyone. We passed several important pieces of legislation. These bills will:

- Allow Newington and New Britain the option of utilizing speed and red-light ticketing cameras in school zones, pedestrian safety zones, and other state-approved locations with a history of car accidents (PA 23-116)
- Improve public awareness and education, while expanding efforts to implement wrong-way driver countermeasures by installing detection and notification systems on at least 120 high-risk highway exit ramps (PA 23-51)
- Provide resources for state and municipal law enforcement to collaborate and work with the federal government to investigate, reduce, and respond to illegal road vehicle takeovers (PA 23-112)