

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GARY TURCO**

We have completed the 2023 Legislative Session with much success for the residents of the 27th District, which includes Newington and New Britain. Our state's next two-year budget was passed with strong bipartisan support and consists of numerous tax cuts, including the first income tax cut since the 1990s (HB 6941).

**The budget:**

- Increases funding to Newington by over \$3 million and New Britain by close to \$15 million to support our schools and lower property taxes
- Makes an historic investment of more than \$30 million to expand services for residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
- Exempts more retiree income from the state income tax
- Continues the mill rate cap on car property taxes
- Includes funding increases for licensed childcare providers, nonprofits, and higher education

In addition, we made important and necessary strides to improve roadway safety, expand voting access, and keep our communities healthy and safe.

Please see the back side for more information on important bills that we passed and contact me with any questions.



Gary Turco

One of the best ways to stay up-to-date is by signing up for my e-blasts.

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# LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

## Expanding Voting Access and Protecting Democracy

I am proud that Connecticut has been making considerable progress to improve on the unfortunate fact of being one of the last states in the nation to allow for some type of early voting.

Thanks to the voters approving a constitutional amendment last fall, the legislature was able to pass legislation to implement early voting starting in 2024 (HB 5004). 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).

We also passed legislation that will take important measures 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 (HB 6941).



*Representative Turco with New Britain Representatives Manny Sanchez and Bobby Sanchez, and James Jones, the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of New Britain.*

## Making Our Roadways Safe

2022 was the deadliest year ever 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 three important pieces of legislation that I believe will have a long-term positive effect, but they will take time for implementation. I ask everyone to do their part by obeying all traffic laws and driving safer.

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 (HB 5917).
- 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 (HB 6746).
- 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 (SB 1036).

## Protecting Consumers

Have you ever entered into a subscription or membership agreement, which was then difficult to cancel? I championed legislation this year that protects consumers from automatic renewal charges and subscriptions that can sometimes be very difficult to terminate.

The legislation passed with strong bipartisan support, and requires easier ways for consumers to contact customer service, necessitates disclosure requirements when there are pricing changes, and institutes an online way for consumers to prevent and terminate automatic renewals, if the agreement was entered into online (HB 5314).



*Representative Turco at the Newington Library 5K Challenge with Representative Kate Farrar, Newington Town Councilor Mitch Page, and Jon Trister with his daughter Charlotte.*

## Better Support for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities

We took major steps toward improving services by expanding housing programs and addressing lengthy waiting lists for individuals awaiting services for autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities. This legislation makes historic investments in 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 (HB 5001).

It is my goal to continue to work on finding solutions that not only bring a sense of relief and peace of mind to guardians and family caregivers, but also to the individuals who are developmentally challenged to help them reach their best potential.