

Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session focused on protecting Connecticut from the daily economic whiplash by the Trump Administration, and other big issues like elections, standing up for working families, funding our schools, and the state budget.

We made historic investments in police, fire, EMS, veterans, teachers, and health care workers. Voters demanded better access to absentee ballots, and we ensured their voices were heard. We know that property taxes are too high, so we made sure every city received more state funding with the direction to lower mill rates if possible.

It was a three-month legislative session, and we had mountains to move. This newsletter has more details about the legislation and key policy initiatives from the 2026 session.

Enjoy,

Toni



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TONI WALKER

PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**



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INVESTING IN YOU: SUPPORTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

As Washington creates economic challenges, Connecticut invests in our economy and workforce.

- Created state workforce navigators to assist adult education graduates with finding jobs.
- Expanded the social work policing program to provide mental health training to law enforcement.
- Established mortgage assistance for first responders.
- Extended protections for teachers and nurses assaulted on the job.
- Guaranteed adequate break time for mothers to express breast milk during the workday.

PRIORITIZING HEALTHCARE FAIRNESS

- Streamlined the use of electronic insurance documents and notices.
- Raised Medicaid rates for family planning services and required the state to review and update rates on a rolling five-year basis.
- Developed a toolkit to assist health care providers with diagnosing and treating the symptoms of menopause, perimenopause, and post-menopause.
- Clarified your ownership of DNA samples that you send to genetic testing companies.

PREVENTING FEDERAL OVERREACH

Connecticut is fighting the threats from Washington and protecting your fundamental rights.

- Expanded absentee voting to all eligible voters, instead of requiring an excuse to vote by mail.
- Protected voting and civil rights by strengthening the Attorney General's ability to file suit when a policy or practice violates the U.S. or Connecticut Constitutions.
- Empowered the Inspector General to investigate the use of deadly force by all federal law enforcement agents.
- Established limits on how data from license plate readers can be used and retained by public and law enforcement agencies.

STANDING UP FOR OUR CHILDREN

- Infused **\$300 million** into the Child Endowment Fund to support free and reduced childcare in 2027.
- Authorized **\$7,652,745** in one-time funding for New Haven schools.
- Prioritized emergency placements with family members and adults already in the child's life.
- Established the Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee to evaluate and address concerns at the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN NEW HAVEN

The New Haven delegation delivered \$347.2 million in state funding, including:

\$178,477,075

for Education

\$28,137,990

for Municipal Grants

\$105,116,171

for Untaxable Properties

