



Dear Neighbor,

It is a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2023 legislative session is now in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

I'm proud to have worked on a budget that delivers historic tax cuts and increased funding for students, families, and our most vulnerable residents, while paying down our long-term debt, including an additional \$2.072 billion in unfunded future pension liability.

Most importantly, we did it by working together - without gimmicks or partisan politics. We prioritized education, supported non-profits, small businesses and invested in public safety 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 any of the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,

State Representative Derell Wilson

BIG WINS FOR NORWICH

- ✓ Historic funding for schools
- ✓ Massive deposit into Rainy Day Fund
- ✓ Sensible/sustainable budget
- ✓ CT a beacon for reproductive healthcare
- ✓ Modern voting system with early voting
- ✓ Invest in growing healthcare workforce



NEW LAWS FOR 2023-24

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE DERELL WILSON

PROUDLY SERVING NORWICH

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NEW LAWS IN CT 2023-2024



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THE WORKFORCE

EXPANSION OF PTSI FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

- The legislature expanded eligibility for workers' compensation benefits for post-traumatic stress injuries (PTSI) to cover all employees covered by the workers' compensation law.
- Prior law generally limited eligibility for these benefits to certain first responders diagnosed with PTSI as a direct result of certain qualifying events that occur in the line of duty. (effective January 1, 2024)

BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE

- Expanded school-based apprenticeship opportunities in aviation and aerospace, training for future paraeducators, and dual credit/enrollment opportunities

ELECTIONS AND VOTING

- Legislation was passed establishing a 14-day early voting period for general elections, a seven-day period for most primaries, and a four-day period for special elections and presidential preference primaries. We also approved a resolution that will ask voters in the Nov. 2024 election whether we should have no excuse absentee ballots and adopted anti-discrimination laws around voting.

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS

ELIMINATING TAXES FOR NORWICH

- ✓ Current law exempts 100% of pension and annuity income from the state's income tax, and we are halfway to phasing out 100% of IRA income for those making \$75,000 or less annually (\$100,000 for joint filers).
- ✓ Extended exemptions to taxpayers making up to \$100,000 (\$150,000 for joint filers) by phasing-out the deduction between 2.5% and 100%, depending on your income.

LOCAL FUNDING INCREASE

- ✓ Championed an additional \$2.4 million for Norwich in FY 24

ATTAINED \$2.4 MILLION TOWARD...

- ✓ St. Mary's Church
- ✓ Greenville Church
- ✓ Norwich Arts Council
- ✓ Chestnut Street Playhouse
- ✓ Youth Services Prevention Grant
- ✓ Youth Violence Initiative Grant
- ✓ DECD Funding Grant
- ✓ School Construction Reimbursement rate increased to 80% which saves taxpayers millions in debt service repayment.
- ✓ We championed an additional \$5 million in the state budget for the Connecticut Firefighters Cancer Relief Fund

HOUSING

A new law requires the Office of Policy and Management secretary to establish a methodology by December 1, 2024, for determining and fairly allocating each municipality's fair share of affordable housing units.

PROTECTING RENTERS

- Increased municipal fines to \$2,000 for rental property violations (unsanitary or unsafe living conditions)
- Required landlords to offer walk-throughs prior to signing a lease
- Capped rental application fees at \$50
- Erased judicial records for renters who win eviction cases
- Required a more timely return of security deposits
- Capped late charges for past due rent

AGING & DISABILITIES

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

- Expanded Medicaid coverage for services including primary healthcare, physical therapy, and meals
- Strengthened patient's involvement in their homemaker care plans and streamlined the process for filing complaints
- Expanded eligibility for seniors to participate in adult day services
- Increased funding for elderly nutrition and Meals on Wheels
- Allowed banks to freeze transactions when they suspect a senior is being scammed

INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD)

- This year, the legislature passed a law to evaluate and expand support and services for people with IDD to include provisions on education, public safety and emergency services, workforce issues, disability rights, agency staffing and information sharing, transportation and housing.
- The act also requires state agencies to reduce waiting lists for Medicaid waivers that provide services to people with IDD