



Dear Neighbor:

The 2026 legislative session focused on protecting Connecticut from the wildly chaotic economy being whiplashed daily by the Trump Administration, as well as 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 and town received more state funding with the direction to lower mill rates if possible.

It was a three-month legislative session, and we had a lot to try and get done in that short timeframe. This newsletter has a few highlights about the legislation we passed and key policy initiatives from the 2026 session.

As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or if I can ever help you in any way. It's an honor to serve you in Hartford!

Best Regards,

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JASON DOUCETTE

PROUDLY SERVING MANCHESTER & GLASTONBURY

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

**FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JASON DOUCETTE**

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With Speaker Ritter, Majority Leader Rojas, and Manchester Board of Education Chair Patterson at a press conference to announce increased school funding

MAKING SURE OUR 2026 ELECTIONS ARE FREE AND FAIR – REGARDLESS OF YOUR POLITICS AND WHAT PARTY YOU BELONG TO (HB 5001)

After voters overwhelmingly approved the expanded use of absentee ballots in 2024, we modernized our absentee ballot system:

- Modernized our absentee ballot laws and vote counting procedures
- Created more safeguards to ensure your vote counts
- Protected our elections from corrupt outside forces
- Replaced the confusing second envelope with a more reliable bar code system
- Set up a system to check the status of your absentee ballot online
- Expanded where town-supervised voting by absentee ballot takes place (currently it’s only in nursing homes and hospice)
- Let anyone who will be 18 by Election Day vote early or by absentee ballot

HISTORIC INVESTMENTS FOR BLUE COLLAR WORKERS AND WORKING- AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES (HB 5003, PA 26-15 & PA 26-17)

- Provided State health insurance to the families of volunteer firefighters and state marshals who lose their life in the line of duty
- Created a new mortgage assistance program for first responders
- Ramped up efforts to hire and train more police officers and firefighters, including volunteer firefighters
- Protected healthcare workers who get hurt or assaulted on the job

FIGHTING FOR AFFORDABILITY & FAIRNESS IN HEALTH CARE (SB 196 & HB 5374)

- Imposed new restrictions on private equity ownership of hospitals and nursing homes and banned sale-leaseback deals
- Made sure our state can review and negotiate lower prescription drug prices and required health insurers to highlight changes to their prescription drug coverage
- Required insurance coverage for pharmacists’ clinical services



A STATE BUDGET THAT INVESTS IN PRIORITIES AND SENDS MORE MONEY BACK TO OUR TOWNS (SB 1)

- Invested over \$190 million in public education for 2026-2027 school year
- Allowed us to prepay an additional \$1.1 billion in pension liability
- \$300 million for early childhood endowment



ADDITIONAL TOWN AID FOR FY 27	
MANCHESTER	GLASTONBURY
\$7,753,786	\$1,086,427

