

Dear neighbor,

The 2024 legislative session is in the books, and I am proud of what we accomplished.

My goal for the session was to ensure we invested in our priorities while preserving tax cuts for families and seniors.

By passing our fiscal stabilization plan we protected the largest and second-largest tax cuts in state history and ensured more retirement income would be tax-exempt. We also filled our priority buckets by increasing funding for higher education, early childhood, mental health, and nonprofits.

This newsletter has more details.

Enjoy,

2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Community Funding, Safety & Wellness
- Supporting Seniors
- Education
- Voting



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSH ELLIOTT

PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

CAPITOL UPDATE 2024

Representative Josh Elliott
Legislative Office Building, Room 4109
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL UPDATE 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOSH ELLIOTT
PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

- 860-240-8585
- Josh.Elliott@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Elliott
- facebook.com/staterepjoshelliott



COMMUNITY SAFETY & WELLNESS

Safety

- Expanded guidelines on the use of police body cameras and required those guidelines to be included in police training
- Protected domestic violence victims from being forced into debt by their abuser
- Covered victims of sexual assault under the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave
- Strengthened inspections and regulation of youth camps
- Streamlined criminal background checks for prospective foster families without compromising thoroughness

Wellness

- Approved comprehensive capital improvement plan at UConn Health
- Putting patients first:
 - Allowed pharmacists to give opioid disposal systems when dispensing opioids
 - Strengthened hospitals' defenses against cyberattacks
 - Banned paperwork and payment requirements for receiving critical ambulance rides

HAMDEN FUNDING

- Town of Hamden was awarded \$8,689,491 for "Affordable Housing Development". These Community Investment Funds will support 64 new affordable housing units, a Community Hub facility, and pedestrian and streetscape improvements around 2980 State Street
- \$750,000 planning grant and \$5.4 million for the demolition of the former Hamden Middle School and to prepare development for a new Arts and Cultural Center
- \$1.35 million to renovate the Keefe Center which provides many essential town services



MAKING SENIORS A PRIORITY

- Expedited Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care
- Created a new registry system to connect patients to home care providers and created a dashboard to help navigate nursing home options
- Required nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60-90 days notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES PROTECTING TAX CUTS

We passed a bipartisan biennium budget that includes historic tax cuts and investments for our community.

- **LARGEST INCOME TAX CUT** in state history
- **Biggest investment in public education ever**
- **New supports for the IDD community**
- **Expansion of debt free community college**
- **Protected safety net programs**

This session we protected these tax cuts and invested millions of federal funds in:

- **Higher Education - \$160 million with a path to grow to \$200 million**
- **Early Childcare - \$21.8 million**
- **Mental Health - \$24 million**
- **Nonprofits - \$50 million**

VOTING

- Banned foreign nationals from making campaign contributions in CT or spending money on behalf of candidates
- Required video monitoring of ballot drop boxes
- Made it a crime to harass election workers



EDUCATION

- Invested in nonprofits that assist students with college and financial aid applications
- Expanded employer-based student loan repayment tax credits and reduced rates for state-backed loans for in-demand occupations

Supporting Local Schools

- Established the Education Mandate Review Advisory Council to review proposed and existing mandates on local boards of education
- Required the State Department of Education to provide school districts an estimate of their next year's funding by the end of the current year, to ensure better budgeting

Improving Childcare

- Piloted new childcare programming
- Expanded the childcare incubator program