

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear Neighbor,

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

We worked hard to deliver a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while still providing hundreds of millions in additional funding to our local schools, colleges and universities, and services for our most vulnerable residents. As part of our historic tax cuts, families of four who make \$50,000 annually will pay no state income taxes. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

We did it by working together – without the rancor you see in Washington.

I'd love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions about the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,



2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- 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 MARIA HORN

PROUDLY SERVING THE 64TH DISTRICT

Representative Maria Horn
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CAPITOL UPDATE 2023

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NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT

2023 2024



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARIA HORN

PROUDLY SERVING CANAAN, CORNWALL, GOSHEN, KENT, NORFOLK, NORTH CANAAN, SALISBURY, SHARON, AND WASHINGTON



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ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

- Improved transparency and established standards for the **removal of hazardous trees at state parks** to prevent unsupported and abrupt clear-cutting of trees such as took place at Housatonic Meadows State Park in 2021.
- Allowed for **better management of the population of black bears** by: banning intentional feeding of potentially dangerous animals; allowing farmers experiencing damage to crops or livestock to get a permit from DEEP to neutralize black bears or other nuisance wildlife when nonlethal methods have failed; and enabling you to defend yourself, your family, and your pets from an attack by a black bear.
- Responded to the **municipal solid waste crisis** with new funding for facilities and mandatory food scrap diversion at colleges, hospitals, and nursing homes.
- Allowed permits for factories, waste plants, and other **polluters to be denied** or have conditions on them when they are proposed in locations that have historically dealt with high levels of pollution.
- Created a successor to the **Materials Innovation Recycling Authority (MIRA)** to wind down MIRA's operations and identify needs related to redeveloping MIRA properties. The law also (1) sets recycled content requirements for certain plastic beverage containers, (2) expands the scope of the state's organics law by requiring facilities such as educational or correctional institutions to separate organics materials from other waste and recycle them, and (3) includes provisions related to developing solid waste management infrastructure.

OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET INCLUDES HISTORIC TAX CUTS!

A STATE BUDGET FOCUSED ON:



CUTTING YOUR TAXES

Our budget includes the **largest Personal Income Tax cut in CT history** by cutting marginal income tax rates, increasing the Earned Income Tax Credit, and eliminating even more retirement income taxes.



INDUSTRY GROWTH

Our budget **supports CT's growing industries** such as childcare, manufacturing, media, film and theater.



INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS

Our budget **invests over \$240M in public education** by stabilizing our state colleges and universities, expanding debt-free community college, fully funding our schools and local boards of education, and increasing scholarships and student debt relief.



SAFETY NET SERVICES

Our budget expands Temporary Family Assistance, increases Husky C eligibility, provides funds to community action agencies for residents facing immediate economic hardship, supports the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and increases Medicaid rate reimbursements for providers and specialists.



SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Our budget **invests over \$30M to better serve Intellectually or Developmentally Disabled individuals** by addressing agency waiting lists for services, bolstering employment opportunities, increasing Husky C eligibility, and breaking down silos for better coordination and data collection.



PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

- Tackled health care costs with a new law that: limits when hospitals and health systems may charge **facility fees**; requires the state comptroller to establish a **drug discount card program**; allows CT to join with other states or regional consortia to **pool prescription drug purchasing power** and lower costs; and creates additional public notice and enforcement mechanisms within the Office of Health Strategy's Certificate of Need program.
- Protected **reproductive health care** by removing barriers to access emergency contraception and helping shield health care providers from being adversely affected by other states' disciplinary actions against reproductive health care services.
- Focused resources to prevent and treat **opioid abuse** by requiring DMHAS to create a pilot program establishing harm reduction centers where people with substance abuse disorders can access counseling and other services.

