



Dear Neighbor,

The 2026 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I want to share some highlights.

As chair of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee, I'm proud to be among those who led the work to pass a bipartisan budget that made historic investments in our children, teachers, healthcare workers, hospitals, police, fire, EMS, veterans, and all of our towns, easing pressure on property taxes. We focused on affordability, providing tax relief for caregivers, small businesses, families, and hospitals. Voters demanded better access to absentee ballots, and we provided it.

It was a three-month legislative session, and we had mountains to move. Though there isn't enough room (or small enough print) to include it all, I hope the details in this newsletter give you a sense of our accomplishments from the 2026 session.

All my best,

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARIA HORN

PROUDLY SERVING THE 64TH HOUSE DISTRICT

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
MARIA HORN

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VACCINES: SCIENCE AND GOOD MEDICINE GUIDE US

- Allowed the State to buy vaccines from suppliers other than the CDC
- Improved access to vaccines for uninsured and underinsured adults
- Required private insurance companies to cover the cost when you get vaccinated

PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN

- Deposited \$300 million into the Early Childhood Endowment
- Limited children's ability to access social media platforms that use personalized algorithms, and required social media companies to give minors warnings about mental health
- Helped our State Department of Education better understand the number of students who receive their education at home
- Required DCF to check for cases of abuse and neglect prior to a child being withdrawn from school

HOUSE DEMOCRATS SHEPHERD PASSAGE OF BIPARTISAN BUDGET

- \$190 million in additional direct support for schools
- \$100 million to mitigate local tax increases
- \$3.25 million for early voting and voter information campaigns, and funded new universal no-excuse absentee voting
- \$10 million for state police equipment upgrades
- \$12 million to expand free school breakfasts across the state
- Reached a historic agreement with our hospitals, maximizing federal funding for healthcare and setting up a system to address rising costs
- Made basic school supplies tax-free and expanded sales-tax-free week to include clothing, shoes, and backpacks under \$300
- Created a tax credit for family members who are caring for a loved one
- Created a tax credit for small businesses that contribute to employees' individual health insurance coverage



ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY, DATA PRIVACY, AND ELECTION SECURITY

- Enabled residents to sue ICE agents when their constitutional rights are violated
- Created ban on federal agents wearing masks
- Protected traffic camera data from being used for immigration enforcement
- Banned convertible pistols - firearms that can be modified to work just like an automatic machine gun
- Expanded consumer rights to delete your data
- Regulated companies that buy and sell your data and created financial penalties for abuse
- Enhanced election security by keeping weapons away from polls, increasing penalties for tampering with vote counts or intimidating poll workers, and empowering our Attorney General to prevent election interference



SAFEGUARDING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- Developed a rapid-response program for addressing hydrilla and other invasive species plaguing our waterways through faster permitting and expedited protocols
- Overhauled state-backed solar programs with an emphasis on storage, safety, and affordability
- Set up financial assistance to help modernize our dairy farms, expanded a farm investment tax credit program, and made it easier for our farms and forests to be preserved for future generations