



Dear Neighbor,

The 2025 legislative session featured big issues like lowering energy bills, childcare, special education and the state budget – and we tackled them all.

Our budget provides a \$250 check for working families under EITC guidelines and \$300 million to fund the childcare trust fund. We devote hundreds-of-millions of dollars to special education and approved comprehensive energy legislation to reduce electric bills for businesses and families.

“Connecticut will be poised to continue saving hundreds of millions of dollars annually to continue paying down its hefty pension debt at an accelerated pace.”

-CT Mirror

And we did it responsibly. This newsletter has more details about the 2025 legislative session.

Enjoy,

BIG WINS FOR DANBURY

- Cut Your Electric Bill
- Provided Millions for Special Education
- \$250 Tax Credit for Working Families
- Made Childcare More Affordable and Accessible



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KEN GUCKER

PROUDLY SERVING DANBURY

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2025**

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CAPITOL UPDATE **2025**



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A BALANCED BUDGET AND OUR SECOND-LARGEST SURPLUS IN STATE HISTORY

THANKS TO SOUND BUDGETING AND THE LEADERSHIP OF DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE WE:

- Delivered the Single Greatest Investment in Children in Connecticut's History
- Made Historic Investments in Special Education with \$552,480 for Danbury

WE DELIVERED TARGETED, MEANINGFUL RELIEF AND LONG-TERM SUPPORT FOR WORKING FAMILIES THROUGH FAIRER TAX POLICIES:

- Established an Enhanced Tax Credit for Families
- Supported Childcare Providers
- Helped Families Save For College
- Expanded Capital for Special Education Infrastructure
- Invested in Our Workforce and Residents

HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

- Banned fertilizers that contain PFAS.
- Expanded our ban on sales of invasive species to include reed canary grass, winged euonymus, black locust, and Japanese barberry.
- Set new state climate goals for greenhouse gas reduction.
- Supported clean energy jobs through tax incentives.
- Encouraged heat pump deployment through strategic planning and local school building projects.
- Expanded loan and grant programs to include more that benefit low-income residents.
- Established an extended producer responsibility program around the collection and recycling of batteries. This will reduce soil and water contamination, minimize landfill waste, and prevent batteries from exploding in waste management facilities.

SAVING THE HISTORIC FAIRFIELD COURTHOUSE

The Fairfield County Courthouse, built in 1899, has been the cornerstone of Danbury's historic district for generations. Getting this building into the hands of the city not only ensures its protection but continues its positive use in the community. Preserving Danbury's history has always been a mission of mine which started when I lobbied and succeeded in saving the McLean house from liquidation.

FIXING INEFFICIENCY

We fixed an issue with the DMV that held up the sale and title of cars over twenty years old. This issue caused hang ups and substantial costs for dealerships and sellers. This year the DMV will create a streamlined process to ensure that titles are given promptly.

RICHTER THEATER

Secured \$130,000 over the next two years for Musicals at Richter to help with their mission in the community.



SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS

- Established a new Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant program based on school needs to help build local capacity so more students can be served closer to home. (\$30 million)
- Ensured our reimbursement grant for high-needs students is funded at its highest level in Connecticut history. (\$221 million annually, in budget)
- Established a new competitive grant to help districts provide more support locally. (\$10 million)
- Increased state funding for local capital improvements related to special education. (15% higher reimbursement)
- Created comprehensive, on-site compliance visits for outplacement providers.
- Established reporting on providers, services for kids, and the needs of local schools.

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

- We extended tuition waivers to exempt some hidden fees at public colleges and universities for veterans and National Guard members.
- Improved access to capital and job creation among our veterans by prioritizing disabled veteran entrepreneurs in the Small Business Express loan program.
- We excluded veterans' pension benefits from income eligibility determinations under HUSKY A & D, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program, and CEAP. Additionally, we exempted service-connected disability compensation from income calculations for public defender eligibility - expanding access to legal defense for veterans with mental health conditions.
- We provided no-cost driver's license renewals for veterans, and required the DMV to issue vouchers for veterans whose licenses are close to their expiration date.
- We increased staffing in the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance, addressing backlogs and improving assistance with benefits claims and initiated a study of "benefits claim sharks" to examine the prevalence of contracts that exploit veterans seeking assistance with benefits.