

# SESSION WRAP-UP

It remains 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 more 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 under \$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 fighting you see in Washington.

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

Sincerely,



## BIG WINS FOR NORWALK AND WESTPORT

- ✓ 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 DOMINIQUE JOHNSON

PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK AND WESTPORT

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# NEW LAWS IN CONNECTICUT

2023  
2024



## FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE DOMINIQUE JOHNSON

PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK AND WESTPORT



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## INVESTING IN OUR WORKFORCE

- Co-sponsored the Green Jobs Corps bill that develops a strategy to market green jobs to residents and recruit individuals, especially those from underrepresented communities, while creating workforce training plans aimed at supporting Connecticut's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Championed the development of work-based learning programs for green jobs with workforce shortages
- Supported the development of certificate and degree programs related to the green technology industry at technical education and career schools and in-state higher education institutions

## IMPROVING CHILDHOOD LITERACY

- Supported \$500,000 in grants to nonprofits that work directly with local families to increase early childhood literacy among all of CT's toddlers up to age 5
- Advocated for new book gifting programs through nonprofit grants that help our littlest readers have access to a home library, some for the very first time
- Developed more programs for home literacy that assist parents and caregivers in reading to their children

# 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, capping mill rates, and eliminating even more retirement income taxes.



### INDUSTRY GROWTH

Our budget **supports CT's growing industries** such as childcare, adult-use cannabis, manufacturing, and media, film, and theater production.



### INVESTING IN 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.



### IDD SUPPORTS

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.

## SUPPORTING COLLEGE STUDENTS

- Starting in July 2024, eligible students can participate in a student loan forgiveness program that will forgive up to \$20,000 in debt in exchange for volunteering at a local nonprofit
- Expanded debt-free community college by including returning students and giving more flexibility to students to apply for the program beyond the first 48 months of their college attendance
- Created student loan subsidies for paraeducators and school counselors in our lowest-performing districts, as well as for police officers in distressed municipalities and emergency medical service personnel



## FIGHTING FOR EDUCATION

- Personal financial management and financial literacy will now be a requirement for high school graduation
- Secured additional funding for our schools
- Enabled schools to provide more play-based learning from pre-K to grade school

