

2023 CAPITOL UPDATE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It remains an honor and a privilege to serve as your state representative. I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the 2023 legislative session.

I am proud to have worked on a budget that delivers historic tax cuts and increases funding for New Haven, our students, families, and our most vulnerable residents.

Most importantly, we did it by working together – without gimmicks or partisan politics. We prioritized education, supported non-profits, and invested in public safety without the fighting you see in Washington.

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

I wish you all a healthy, enjoyable end of summer and great start to the fall season!



INCREASED STATE AID FOR NEW HAVEN

Education Cost Sharing (Estimated)

FY 24: \$165,306,789
(\$1.89M Increase)

FY 25: \$169,585,180
(\$ 6.17M Increase)

Total State Aid (Estimated)

FY 24: \$297,372,565
(\$5.2M increase)

FY 25: \$301,669,158
(\$9.6M increase)

GOOD NEWS FOR NEW HAVEN

New Haven Programs Receiving State Budget Funding

Project Longevity - \$9,500,000
Annex Little League - \$50,000
New Haven PAL - \$250,000
City Seed - \$200,000
New Haven Arts - \$983,022

Junta For Progressive Action - \$175,000
Dom Aitro Baseball League - \$50,000
Marine Cadets of America - \$50,000
New Haven Jobs Funnel - \$1,500,000
New Haven for Youth at Work - \$200,000



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FROM DEPUTY SPEAKER ALPHONSE PAOLILLO, JR.

PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN

State Representative Al Paolillo, Jr.
Legislative Office Building, Room 4100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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CAPITOL NEWS 2023



FROM DEPUTY SPEAKER AL PAOLILLO, JR.

PROUDLY SERVING NEW HAVEN



- 860-240-8585
- Alphonse.Paolillo@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Paolillo
- facebook.com/RepPaolillo



MORE GOOD NEWS FOR NEW HAVEN

\$650,000 FOR NEW HAVEN PARKS

- \$250,000 to implement and restore a city plan for **Quinnipiac River Park**
- \$100,000 to upgrade and restore grounds and facilities at **Fort Wooster Park**
- \$100,000 for improvements to recreation areas at **Fairmont Park**
- \$100,000 for renovations, erosion control, beach upgrades at **Lighthouse Park**
- \$100,000 for upgrades to park facilities for the **Annex Little League**

FUNDING FOR RAPID TRANSIT — \$20,000,000 was approved to finance the construction of a bus rapid transit system in New Haven as part of the Move New Haven On-Street Bus Rapid Transit System Project. The project consists of eighteen enhanced on-street stops and four mini-hubs with shelters.

NEW HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY — \$751,000 in funding helps complete a several-year land conveyance process to purchase very important parcels of land currently owned by the DOT. It will allow for economic development and expanded maritime use in this strategic harbor area, an economic driver for jobs and commerce in our city and state.

BLIGHT MANAGEMENT — \$5,000,000 to establish a community housing land bank and land trust in New Haven to assist with eliminating blight.



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 from 5% to 4% and 3% to 2%, increasing the earned Income Tax Credit and capping the mill rate on motor vehicles



TAX RELIEF FOR RETIREES

Expands retirement income tax relief to those making up to \$100,000 for single filers and \$150,000 for joint filers



INCREASING RAINY DAY FUND

Deposits **\$3.3 billion into the state's Rainy Day Fund** to help keep our AA+ credit rating



PAYING DOWN DEBT

Pays down an additional \$2.072 billion in unfunded pension liability which **saves taxpayers \$167.4 million** annually beginning in Fiscal Year 2025



INVESTING IN EDUCATION

Our budget **invests over \$240M in public education** by increasing funding for our schools, supporting our state colleges and universities, expanding debt-free community college, and increasing scholarships and student debt relief



PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

PEDESTRIAN AND TRAFFIC SAFETY — Municipalities can now apply to the state DOT to place traffic enforcement cameras around schools, pedestrian zones and dangerous intersections. Revenue from the tickets must be used to improve roadway safety in that municipality. We also named a portion of Townsend Avenue in memory of Zayne Thomas.

COMBATING ILLEGAL ACTIVITY — We gave police additional tools to enforce illegal street racing in parking lots as well as other stunts and street takeovers. It also criminalizes the promotion of illegal street racing, motor vehicle stunts, and street takeovers. We also passed a new law directing CT to pursue a regional approach with other states to address catalytic converter theft.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Expands our assault weapons ban and restricts Open Carry
- Bans Ghost Guns and closed existing loopholes
- Requires safe storage and trigger locks
- Funds gun violence prevention and youth services:
 - \$7.8 million for the public health-centered gun violence program
 - \$9.5 million for the Project Longevity gun violence reduction program

OTHER LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

EARLY VOTING — Provides voting opportunities 14 days before Election Day for general elections, 7 days before most primaries, and 4 days before special elections and the Presidential primary.

PHARMACY CLOSURES — Responding to constituent complaints, Senator Looney and I worked successfully to pass a law requiring pharmacies that close even temporarily to post notice and make prescription records available to a nearby pharmacy.

BABY BONDS — For those eligible, \$3,200 would be placed into a trust on behalf of each baby born into HUSKY, the state's Medicaid program, starting July 1. Recipients are able access funds between the ages of 18-30, should they remain in Connecticut for things like attending college, starting a business or buying a home.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER PRESUMPTION — Establishes funding and benefits for firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer due to work exposures.

POLICE ACCIDENT REPORTS — Extends the deadline of the motor vehicle accident report task force I helped co-introduce to develop ways to simplify the process to save valuable time and resources of local police departments.

FINANCIAL LITERACY INSTRUCTION — Based on legislation I co-introduced, a financial literacy course will now be a part of high school graduation requirements. Students will now be better positioned to make smart financial decisions and succeed in life.