

SESSION WRAP-UP

Dear Neighbor,

The 2023 legislative session is now in the rearview mirror, and I wanted to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

I'm proud to have worked on a budget that delivers historic tax cuts and increased funding for students, families, and our most vulnerable residents, while paying down our long-term debt, including an additional \$2.072 billion in unfunded future pension liability.

Most importantly, we did it by working together - prioritizing education, supporting non-profits, and investing in public safety 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 any of the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

Sincerely,



2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Cutting taxes for middle class residents
- ✓ Bolstering education funding
- ✓ Funding our community nonprofits
- ✓ Making our communities safer
- ✓ Ensuring environmental sustainability
- ✓ Fostering a more affordable CT

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KADEEM ROBERTS

PROUDLY SERVING NORWALK



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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2023**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2023**



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Above: Rep. Roberts joins Governor Lamont, State Treasurer Russell and fellow legislators to announce the “CT Baby Bonds” program.

IMPROVING HEALTHCARE ACCESS

- Increased telehealth options for issues like medical marijuana prescriptions and follow up appointments
- Allowed over-the-counter drugs as well as Narcan, and other lifesaving opioid antagonists, to be sold through regulated vending machines
- Expanded pharmacy services to include vaccine administration of CDC immunizations, testing for COVID, flu, and HIV, and providing prescriptions for preventative HIV treatment
- Required pharmacies to have a plan for unscheduled closings, including a method of notifying customers and using pickup lockers
- Created a statewide Drug Discount Card Program, regulated pharmaceutical sales reps, and banned anticompetitive loopholes in healthcare contracts

SUPPORTING NORWALK STUDENTS

- Allocated over \$14 million for education in Norwalk this year
- Required boards of education to provide translator services and established rights for multilingual learners
- Moved up the eligibility age for starting kindergarten by three months (to align with more states) and will require more play-based learning from pre-K to grade 5
- Expanded debt-free community college – including subsidies for returning students
- Created a student loan forgiveness program, starting in July 2024, that will forgive up to \$20,000 in debt in exchange for volunteering at a local nonprofit
- Created a Student Loan Ombudsman to help students, graduates, and their families deal with student loans

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 EDUCATION

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.



A SAFER NORWALK

- Improved data collection on crimes involving firearms
- Restricted Open Carry of firearms
- Formed a special police task force to deal with abuse of children online
- Modernized our blight laws and extended local enforcement to commercial properties
- Improved data collection on use of and compliance with police body and dashboard cameras

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

- 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
- Responded to the municipal solid waste crisis with new funding for facilities and mandatory food scrap diversion at colleges, hospitals, and nursing homes
- Expanded eligibility for Microgrid and Resilience Loans - allowing the state to build more green buildings

SMALL BUSINESS & WORKERS

- Cut the number of reporting requirements for businesses
- Protected workers whose health benefits are terminated by an employer following a strike or labor dispute
- Cut business taxes to promote expansion of childcare facilities
- Made it easier for small contractors to bid on state projects
- Expanded “JobsCT” to increase employment and job creation in our state
- Created tax credits and incentives for towns and businesses that build workforce housing, including for teachers, police officers, and firefighters



Above: Rep. Roberts and other dignitaries celebrate the ground breaking of a new educational facility at the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum.