

Dear Neighbor,

During the 2026 legislative session, we addressed major issues affecting residents every day, including the cost of living, energy rates, public safety, immigration enforcement, voter rights, public health policies, protecting children, gun violence prevention, efforts to stabilize municipal finances, and reduced pressure on property taxes.

At the same time, the session was shaped by federal funding cuts, policy changes, and economic uncertainty that created new challenges for Connecticut. Our focus was on protecting essential services, supporting local communities, and maintaining our state's fiscal stability.

Despite these challenges, we made important investments in our workforce, schools, towns, and made responsible revisions to the state budget. This newsletter highlights key legislation and initiatives from the 2026 session and what they mean for you and your family.

Enjoy!



WORKING FOR A STRONGER FUTURE

- Making CT a more affordable place to live and work
- Expanding affordable childcare and Pre-K
- Building a skilled 21st-century workforce
- Protecting access to comprehensive healthcare
- Increasing housing opportunities
- Protecting voting rights and voter data



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
RENEE LAMARK MUIR

CHESTER, DEEP RIVER, ESSEX, AND HADDAM

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 26**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE

RENEE LAMARK MUIR

PROUDLY SERVING CHESTER, DEEP RIVER,
ESSEX, AND HADDAM

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE RENEE LAMARK MUIR

CAPITOL UPDATE 2026



KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

- Increased accountability for federal law enforcement
- Banned dangerous convertible pistols and modifications
- Protected children against AI-enabled and online harms
- Supported police, firefighters, & EMS
- Continued cannabis reform to strengthen regulation and reduce costs
- Updated hate crime laws



STATE BUDGET REVISIONS

- ✓ \$193 Million public school grants, \$100+ Million direct municipal aid, and \$300 Million early childhood education
- ✓ New tax credits for low - to moderate-income renters and caregivers of adult relatives
- ✓ Expanded sales tax-free week to include clothing and backpacks under \$300, and made school supplies permanently tax-free
- ✓ \$320 Million for State Early Childhood Education Endowment
- ✓ Free school breakfast statewide
- ✓ Erased or reduced medical debt for 97,000 eligible residents

BIG WINS FOR THE 36TH DISTRICT

- Over \$10 Million in overall state funding for Chester, Deep River, Essex & Haddam
- \$1,576,823 in new Educational Cost Sharing (ECS) funding for local public schools
- \$97,775 in new funding for local residential property tax relief
- \$4 Million restored to Shoreline East Railroad to reinforce core commuter service
- \$2,969,810 CT Department of Transportation Connectivity Grants to improve access and safety in communities
- \$1,570,000 in state grants for roads and infrastructure
- Additional bonding and grants for open space, environmental grants, historic preservation, ADA access, farming, and economic development



PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT & LOWER ENERGY RATES

- Fast-tracked notification and permits to eradicate invasive aquatic weeds like Hydrilla
- Immediate notification for residents during river and beach pollution overflows
- Tightened requirements and increased penalties at bottle redemption centers to curb out-of-state container fraud
- \$30-\$34 per month savings for customers after electric rate adjustment in May 2026
- Kept ratepayer costs predictable by establishing clear rate targets
- Created dedicated solar rates for low-income households
- Strengthened emergency response readiness for solar facilities



MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES HEALTHY

- Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for local healthcare providers
- Developed science-based vaccine guidelines and protected access to vaccines
- Prohibited insurers from forcing cheaper, ineffective drugs on patients with complex illnesses
- Funded state subsidies to shield families from sudden health insurance premium increases
- Blocked corporate private equity takeovers of hospitals
- Imposed mandatory training guidelines for home health aides to protect aging seniors

