

The Connecticut General Assembly



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE GARY TURCO ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

State Rep. Gary Turco (D-Newington) today announced his legislative priorities for the 2022 session of the Connecticut General Assembly that opens on Wednesday, focusing on the most pressing issues facing Newington residents.

Rep. Turco shaped his priorities through the recommendations of Newington residents that he collected through his annual legislative survey, town hall forums, meeting with advocacy groups and individual conversations with numerous constituents and local town officials.

Rep. Turco said his agenda points toward helping individuals and businesses negatively impacted by economic issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the higher cost of living, worker shortages and difficulties providing for their families. It is also a short legislative session, which lasts only 84 days, adjourning on May 4.

"Legislative leadership has asked that we prioritize only the most pressing issues," Rep. Turco said.

Rep. Turco will serve again as vice-chair of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, where he focuses on reducing student loan debt and increasing workforce training opportunities; the Veterans' Affairs Committee, where he works to ensure the state assists veterans in areas where federal programs are lacking; and the Public Safety and Security Committee that he was appointed to last month.

Rep. Turco specifically asked Speaker of the House Matt Ritter to appoint him to the Public Safety and Security Committee during the 2022 session.

"I want to work closely with state and local law enforcement, as well as other first responders such as firefighters and EMS, to assist them in their duties," Rep. Turco said. "Our first responders have been on the front line since day one of the pandemic, and it has been a tough time combating issues of crime and safety, along with their personal physical and mental health due to the many consequences of COVID-19. They need our support, and I want to help."

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Other priorities for Rep. Turco include:

- **Tax relief:** Targeted tax relief to combat the rising cost of living and help those that need it the most. Rep. Turco has also introduced legislation for a more expansive property tax credit and strongly supports a child tax credit. He will also continue supporting the phased-in elimination of the state income tax for middle-class seniors on their social security, pensions and annuities.
- **Education:** Support the public school system by increasing funding to the Education Cost-Sharing Grant, which provides additional funding to Newington schools.
- **Mental health:** Increase mental health support services, especially to children, and support the mental health and human services workforce, especially the nonprofit service providers. Rep. Turco is also sponsoring legislation to help prevent childhood deaths from drug overdoses.
- **Elections:** Protect voting rights and access to polling places threatened in Newington and across the state.
- **Women's reproductive health:** Safeguard women's reproductive rights, which are likely to come under threat as the conservative-leaning U.S. Supreme Court is contemplating the overturning of Roe vs. Wade.
- **Public health and safety:** Continue to keep the community safe from COVID-19 and support law enforcement and local government in combating violent crime and making streets safer for drivers and pedestrians.

There are several areas that Rep. Turco also leads legislative efforts by sponsoring or working on bills to improve insurance coverage for the early detection of breast cancer, make higher education more affordable and combat climate change.

Additionally, Rep. Turco wants Newington residents to collaborate with him during the session through public participation in the legislative process, which includes submitting written testimony or testifying live at any virtual public hearings, which Committees will hold on Zoom. Residents can see committee agendas and learn the process for testifying at cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgacommittees.asp.

Rep. Turco also encourages Newington residents to sign up for his [weekly email newsletter](#), which provides updates on legislation under consideration and voted on each week during the session. The newsletter also contains other important information and news, which he will also post on his [Facebook page](#), along with video updates during the session.

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