

# State Representative Ted Philips

Proudly serving Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, and Mansfield



State Representative Ted Philips @TedPhilips statereptedphilips

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Dear Friends,

I hope you're doing well and enjoying the summer.

I've compiled a brief newsletter to share how my office is serving you, what I've been working on at the State House, and where I've been around the district.

I hope this will serve as an informative and interesting way to connect you to your state government. However, if there is another issue you want to discuss with me, my door (virtual or in-person) is always open – please don't hesitate to reach out.

As Massachusetts continues to re-open, I'm excited to participate in our communities' beloved events and traditions as they return, and I hope to see you around the district soon!



Best,

Edward R. Philips  
State Representative  
8th Norfolk District

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## Office Update

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 and ongoing renovations, **I do not have a physical office in the State House yet.**

If you would like to schedule a meeting with me, please reach out through the email or phone number above, or contact my Legislative Aide, Brittany Alioto, at **[Brittany.Alioto@mahouse.gov](mailto:Brittany.Alioto@mahouse.gov)**.

# Beacon Hill Update

I'm proud to have filed more than two dozen bills so far, including:

**H.3570 (Haley's Law)** – An Act relative to offenses while driving on a non-administrative license suspension



- Increases penalties for people convicted of driving on suspended licenses, especially when endangering others on the road
- Named for Haley Cremer, a 20-year-old Sharon woman who was tragically killed by a driver with a suspended license, this bill will make our roads safer by keeping reckless drivers off of them
- I am proud that Governor Baker has included this bill as part of his omnibus road safety legislation

**H.988** – An Act to establish a mattress recycling program in the Commonwealth



- Establishes a system in the Commonwealth which collects discarded mattresses, breaks them down into parts, and recycles those parts
- Stops mattresses from contributing to our growing landfills and creates green jobs throughout Massachusetts
- Replicates the successful system already in place in California, Rhode Island, and Connecticut

**H.683** – An Act improving students' access to life saving treatments



- Enables trained members of school staff (in the absence of a school nurse) to administer glucagon, a potentially life-saving treatment, to diabetic students experiencing hypoglycemia
- With the permission of the students' parents, this ensures that diabetic students will not be denied emergency treatments because their nurse is absent or because their school lacks full-time health staff

**H.3037** – An Act relative to reductions in property tax liabilities



- Allows residents over 60 to volunteer for their town in exchange for a reduction in their property taxes for the current year and for future years
  - As it stands, volunteer service only counts towards the current year's property tax obligations; this bill removes that restriction
- Helps our seniors stay in the towns they call home and opens up more opportunities for volunteer service across the Commonwealth

To learn more about the bills I have filed in this session of the legislature, please visit [www.malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/ERP1](http://www.malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/ERP1).

# Beacon Hill Update

These two major bills recently became law in the Commonwealth:

## **S.9** – An Act creating a next-generation roadmap for Massachusetts climate policy



- Sets a statewide net-zero limit on greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and mandates emissions limits every 5 years
- Codifies environmental justice provisions and provides new tools for affected neighborhoods
  - Prioritizes equitable access to the state's solar programs and provides solar incentives for businesses
- Sets benchmarks for the adoption of clean energy technologies (including electric vehicles, charging stations, and solar technology) and new standards for household appliance energy efficiency
- Expands the Commonwealth's offshore wind supply and improves gas pipeline safety
- After Governor Baker vetoed this legislation at the end of last session, I proudly voted to create temporary committees in order to immediately send the bill back to the governor's desk at the start of this session

## **H.3701** – An Act financing the reconstruction of the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke



- In the wake of last year's tragedy at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home, it became clear that the building itself had long outlived its lifespan
  - As a result, when COVID tore through the Soldiers' Home, the building was unable to provide some very basic conditions for staff to utilize to protect our veterans
- I was proud to join my House colleagues in voting unanimously in favor of this bill, which financed the \$400 million reconstruction of the building
  - The new building is expected to be complete by 2026, with new grounds expected by 2028
- The Legislature overrode Governor Baker's veto to pass this bill and to ensure that union labor will be used to build the facility

# Delivering for the District

## FY2022 Budget



Working with my colleagues, I'm pleased to report the following disbursements in the FY2022 budget for the towns of the 8th Norfolk District:

### Sharon

*with Sen. Paul Feeney, Sen. Walter Timilty*

- \$25,000 for repairs and renovations at the Griffin playground on Ames St.
- \$20,000 for the Sharon Substance Prevention and Resource Coalition

### Stoughton

*with Rep. Bill Galvin, Sen. Walter Timilty*

- \$40,000 for renovations of the train depot building
- \$20,000 for Organizing Against Substances in Stoughton
- \$30,000 for street hockey boards

### Walpole

*with Sen. Paul Feeney, Rep. John Rogers, Rep. Paul McMurtry, Rep. Shawn Dooley*

- \$800,000 for continued prison mitigation funding to offset costs associated with hosting MCI Cedar Junction

### Mansfield

*with Sen. Paul Feeney, Rep. Jay Barrows, Rep. Adam Scanlon*

- \$15,000 for renovations to Our Daily Bread food pantry
- \$50,000 for upgrades to the Massachusetts Music & Arts Society

I'm also proud to have worked with Sen. John Velis of Westfield and animal advocates across Massachusetts to secure \$100,000 for the Massachusetts Animal Fund

To learn more about the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, please visit [www.malegislature.gov/Budget](http://www.malegislature.gov/Budget).

# Delivering for the District

## State Infrastructure (Chapter 90 Bill)

**H.3903** - An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges



- I was pleased to join my House colleagues in unanimously passing a bill to finance \$200 million of maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges throughout the Commonwealth
  - Per the formula established in Chapter 90 of the Massachusetts General Laws, this means that the towns in the 8th Norfolk District will receive:

Sharon – \$577,230  
Stoughton – \$767,011  
Walpole – \$771,099  
Mansfield – \$736,977

- The bill also includes \$150 million for statewide traffic initiatives, including:
  - \$50 million to modernize and improve bus transit infrastructure
  - \$25 million to fund the municipal small bridge program, which supports towns in repairing, renovating, and preserving their small bridges
  - \$25 million to expand electric and hybrid vehicle infrastructure
  - \$25 million to improve access to mass transit and commuter rail stations
  - \$25 million to address traffic bottlenecks

# Ted in Your Town

## Sharon



*Stood with the Sharon Chinese Association against the recent surge in hate crimes targeting Asians and Asian-Americans*



*Attended the Memorial Day ceremony at Rock Ridge Cemetery to honor those who gave their lives in defense of our country*



*Presented a formal citation to Mrs. Dianna Kinney, 2020's recipient of the Sharon Education Foundation's Lee Flaxer Award*



*Participated in a reading of Frederick Douglass's Fourth of July Address (1852), sponsored by the Sharon Historical Society*



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# Ted in Your Town

## Sharon



*Joined Sharon Middle School's Challenging Cheetahs at their Spring Walkathon to learn about their work with LEGO robotics*



*Attended the Sharon High School Class of 2021's graduation ceremony and celebrated members of my Youth Cabinet*

## Stoughton



*Marched in the town's annual July 4th parade for my first time as your State Representative*



*Celebrated Juneteenth at the event hosted by the Stoughton Diversity & Inclusion Organization*



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# Ted in Your Town

## Stoughton



*Returned to the annual Firefighter Memorial Sunday event after a COVID-mandated year off*



*Joined Pride Month celebrations hosted by the Stoughton Diversity & Inclusion Organization*



*Commemorated Memorial Day at the ceremony at Town Hall, where I was honored to speak*



*Toured Sullivan & McLaughlin, a union shop that makes materials, parts, and supplies for construction projects*



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# Ted in Your Town

## Walpole



*Attended Memorial Day ceremonies to reflect on and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom*



*Joined local elected officials in the center of town to celebrate Juneteenth with participants from Walpole and Mansfield*

## Mansfield



*Visited the seventh annual Field of Honor on West Street, organized by Jerri Rumsis and her incredible team*



*Attended the town's Pride Month flag-raising ceremony in support of the LGBTQ+ community*



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# Supporting HESSCO Workers



On June 24th, I was proud to stand in solidarity with the workers of HESSCO Elder Services, who have been at the bargaining table for over a year trying to negotiate a fair contract and achieve parity with nearby elder service agencies.



# Upcoming Office Hours

Keep an eye on my social media for updates on my upcoming virtual and in-person office hours!



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I'm always happy to set up a virtual or in-person meeting at your convenience. If there is a time when you would like to meet with me, please contact my office.



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Thanks for reading!