

VICTORIA
GU

State Senate
— District 38 —

**March Newsletter:
We Need Your Voices In Bill
Hearings**



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

A Westerly resident, Brenna, and I, worked on a bill this year that would nullify a tax sale if proper notice requirements are not met, ensuring homeowners have a fair chance to respond and protect their homes.

Brenna traveled all the way from Westerly to testify before the Judiciary committee and share her story. And **more often than not, it's the personal story that convinces the committee members that this bill is important.**

We need your personal testimony too, on other bills! Join us on Monday March 23rd 6-7:30pm for a Zoom call, where we'll talk about upcoming shoreline access bills and CRMC reform. Advocates who are up at the State House often will give tips on how to deliver effective testimony and sign up for action alerts.

Time: Mon Mar 23, 2026 6:00-7:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Registration Link: victoria4ri.com/mar23

Register for Monday's Zoom Meeting

Bill Spotlight: Utility Reform

This winter has been the coldest in recent memory, and a lot of people I know were getting outrageous utility bills.

It's long past time for utility reform. I've introduced two bills this year with Rep. Megan Cotter to reign in utility companies' profit margins—because right now, many Rhode Islanders are paying more than they should.

Here's the core issue in simple terms:

- Utilities earn profits based on how much they spend on infrastructure, not how efficiently they operate (they could double the cost of a project and that would double their profits)
- The current allowed return (9.275%) is much higher than what would be reasonable under Supreme Court precedent (see this [Economic Liberties](#)

Report), but the utility justifies it by saying this is the profit margin that other states' utilities are getting

- Higher infrastructure spending = higher profits for utilities.
Those extra costs are passed directly to you, the ratepayer

To fix this, Rep. Cotter and I are proposing two possible solutions. We need only one of them to pass in order to reign in excess profits:

- [H-7887](#) / [S-2202](#) Require regulators (the RI PUC) to set profit rates that match the actual cost of capital (what the utility needs to raise money)—the utility must refund customers if the utility makes more profit than that
- [H-7888](#) / [S-2777](#) Cap utility profits at 4% annually

At the end of the day, utilities are essential services. My goal is simple: make sure they serve the public, not just their investors, and ensure families and seniors aren't forced to choose between heating their homes and affording basic necessities.

We're having the bill hearings in the next couple weeks, and the utility lobby is coming out forcefully against these bills, of course, so we need your testimony! Write to your legislators and the committee members now

Write to your legislators and committee members about utility reform



Make Your Voice Count: Fighting for Shoreline Access & CRMC Reform

RI Saltwater Anglers Assn
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Save the Bay
Representative Terri Cortvriend
Senator Victoria Gu

Mon Mar 23rd 6-7:30pm
Zoom Town Hall
RSVP:
victoria4ri.com/mar23

Join us Monday Mar 23rd 6pm on Zoom to talk about Shoreline Access & CRMC reform and how you can support these bills

We've made progress on shoreline access, but we need your help to keep the momentum going for coastal access and CRMC reform bills!

Join Save the Bay, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, RI Saltwater Anglers Association and the State Representatives & State Senators who are sponsoring the 2026 bills advancing shoreline access & CRMC reform.

Written testimony on bills is good, but in-person is more impactful! We'll go over tips on how to write and deliver testimony and how to sign up for action alerts

Time: Mon Mar 23, 2026 6-7:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Registration Link: victoria4ri.com/mar23

[Register for Zoom call](#)



HOSTS

**Secretary of State Gregg Amore
on RI Elections**

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

6:00-7:30 PM

Westerly Public Library



Gregg Amore



Rob Rock

Secretary Amore and Deputy Secretary Rob Rock will address the current status of elections and provide an overview of elections processes in RI including voter list maintenance, mail ballot procedures, and post-election processes.

I've been hearing concerns from people about the upcoming election cycle—and questions about what changes at the federal level could mean locally. 🗳️

Secretary Amore and Deputy Secretary Rob Rock will break it all down—covering where things stand right now and walking through how elections actually work here in Rhode Island. From voter list maintenance to mail ballots and post-election processes, this is your chance to get clear, accurate information straight from the source.

If you've had questions, this is the conversation you don't want to miss.

Date/Time: March 18th, 6-7:30pm at the Westerly Library

Next rail advocates meeting: April 13th 6pm at Westerly Library

SEIU Legislative Luncheon

Great to attend the SEIU annual legislative luncheon and spend time listening to the experiences of DCYF frontline workers who are doing incredibly important work for children and families in our communities.

We heard about the need to support hospital staffing committees that can make recommendations for safe staffing levels, ensuring both patients and workers are protected.

We also talked about the impact of investing in workers. As one speaker put it: when you give a home healthcare worker a raise, they don't put it in an offshore bank account — they spend it right here in the community.

Grateful for the opportunity to hear directly from the people serving our children and seniors, and I will continue working toward policies that support them and the families they serve.



Legislative Grant for Cross Mills



Library in Charlestown

Glad to support Cross Mills Library again with a legislative grant! As a kid I devoured many books and our public libraries supported my learning. This grant will support Cross Mills' growing e-book and audiobook collection, which is popular and a great option for readers with disabilities

Future of Health Policy Summit @ Brown

I was glad to attend the Summit on the Future of Health Policy in Rhode Island and hear thoughtful discussions about some of the biggest challenges facing our health care system.

The panels covered important topics including access to primary care, health care affordability, and the potential impacts of federal changes to Medicaid. I especially appreciated hearing directly from health providers and the leaders running primary care residency programs, whose on-the-ground experience is essential as we think



about the future of health policy in our state.



Legislative Grant for Westerly Armory

Glad to support the Westerly Armory with a legislative grant! I've attended a number of community events at the Westerly Armory and appreciate the board and volunteers for all the work they do to take care of this historic building and also make it available as a gathering space.

RI Office of Healthy Aging: Medicare Counseling

Read more about OHA: What We Do

I'm spotlighting two services the RI Office of Healthy Aging provides:

Adult Day Health Centers offer programming with care needs during the day, with services tailored for the individual including therapeutic activities, transportation, meals, health care, personal care, and the like.

Health insurance and Home Cost-Share Program can assist

<https://oha.ri.gov/what-we-do/connect/home-care/adult-day-health-centers>

The **State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)** helps people find the right Medicare coverage at the right cost. SHIP also assists

beneficiaries with limited income to apply for programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare Savings Program and Extra Help/Low Income Subsidy, which can subsidize or reduce healthcare costs. Contact our toll free line 888.884.8721 or the [ADRC \(Rhode Island Aging and Disability Resource Center\)](#) for more information.

Repeating because of the cold weather we're going through- Do you know someone in need of emergency assistance to pay for heating oil/fuel? A couple places to contact are:

- Westerly: **Jonnycake Center of Westerly**
- Charlestown: The Charlestown Senior Center
- South County towns: **Tri-County CAP** for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications, Heat Pumps and Weatherization, and Emergency Boiler Repair

[View email in browser](#)

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