

STATE REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN G. XIARHOS

# BEACON HILL BRIEF

December In-Review

January 8, 2023



Friends,

Welcome to the **December** edition of my monthly newsletter where you can review some of last month's highlights as your 5th Barnstable State Representative. For a more in-depth breakdown, I release a report every week sharing my weekly highlights across our district.

As always, my office remains committed to having constituent services as our number one priority. If you are having issues with Unemployment, the RMV, or any other state agency, please contact us directly and we will assist you in whatever way we can. I can be reached at my email:

Steven.Xiarhos@mahouse.gov or by phone: (617) 722-2488. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steven G. Xiarhos'.



## WELCOME

## COFFEE WITH YOUR REP DECEMBER EDITION

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12/1/23



## ARMY NAVY GAME AT GILLETTE STADIUM 2023

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12/10/23



## 5TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AT TOMATOES IN SANDWICH

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12/12/23



## GOLD STAR FAMILY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT STATE HOUSE

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12/14/23



## CONTACT US:

*Email:*

Representative Xiarhos -  
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Legislative Aide  
Stuart Daniels:  
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*Telephone:*

(617) 722-2488

*Mail:*

State Rep. Steve Xiarhos  
MA State House, Room 542  
24 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02133

## OFFICE HOURS:

Thursday, January 25, 2024

West Barnstable Fire Station  
9:30 to 10:30 AM

Sandwich Public Library -  
MacKnight Room 11:00 AM to  
12:00 PM

Bourne Veterans Memorial  
Community Center 12:30 to 1:30  
PM

## SOCIAL MEDIA:

Facebook: @XiarhosForRep

Instagram: @XiarhosForRep

Twitter: @X4Barnstable5th

Website: xiarhosforrep.com

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2023 AT MA NATIONAL CEMETERY

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12/16/23



## NERO'S LAW ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT & DAKOTA'S LAW HEARING AT STATE HOUSE

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12/14/23



## CRAIGVILLE BEACH CLEANUP

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12/16/23



## JBNR AND TOYS FOR TOTS WITH FALMOUTH & CAPE COD HOSPITAL

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12/17/23



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## Rep. Xiarhos announces \$100M in transportation infrastructure grants for cities and towns

*Sandwich, Bourne, and Barnstable will receive \$443,433, \$313,758, and \$1,083,569 in additional state funding assistance respectively.*

**BOSTON** – State Representative Steven Xiarhos is pleased to announce that the state is distributing \$100 million in grant funding to assist cities and towns with their transportation infrastructure needs, which will provide the town of Sandwich with \$443,433, the town of Bourne with \$313,758, and the town of Barnstable with \$1,083,569 in funding assistance.

The latest round of funding supplements the annual Chapter 90 appropriation for municipalities, which was finalized by the House and Senate on July 27 and signed into law on August 3. That legislation provided Sandwich with \$775,413.40, Bourne with \$599,698.71, and Barnstable with \$1,981,746.73 for road and bridge repairs in Fiscal Year 2024.

Representative Xiarhos noted that the new round of transportation infrastructure funding was authorized by the Legislature through a line item inserted into the Fiscal Year 2024 state budget, which was signed into law on August 9. The funding is being distributed using a two-prong formula, with \$50 million being awarded using the traditional Chapter 90 formula, which factors in a community's local road mileage (58.33%), population (20.83%) and employment (20.83%). The remaining \$50 million will be distributed based on each community's share of road mileage.

According to Representative Xiarhos, Sandwich will receive \$249,580 based on road mileage and \$193,853 based on the Chapter 90 formula, for a total apportionment of \$443,433.

Bourne is set to receive \$163,833 for road mileage and \$149,925 from the Chapter 90 formula for a total apportionment of \$313,758.

Finally, Barnstable will receive \$588,132 based on road mileage and another \$495,437 from Chapter 90 for a total apportionment of \$1,083,569.

Cities and towns can use the new grant funding to pay for a variety of construction, preservation, and improvement projects. This includes installing sidewalks, bicycle lanes, crossing signals, and other transportation infrastructure work.

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**Steven G. Xiarhos**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

5th Barnstable District  
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## **Representative Xiarhos Maintains Perfect Voting Record in 2023**

BOSTON , MA - State Representative Steven G. Xiarhos (R-Barnstable) maintained a perfect voting record in 2023, participating in all 70 roll call votes recorded in the House of Representatives between February 1, 2023, and November 15, 2023.

Representative Xiarhos compiled a 100% attendance record this year by casting votes on several major policy initiatives during the first half of the 2023-2024 legislative session, including a comprehensive tax relief package that is expected to provide taxpayers with \$561 million in savings this fiscal year and an estimated \$1.02 billion in savings once the changes are fully implemented in 2026. Signed into law on October 4, 2023, as Chapter 50 of the Acts of 2023, *An Act to improve the Commonwealth's competitiveness, affordability and equity*, the bill:

- Doubles the Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit from \$1,200 to \$2,400, indexed to inflation, to assist nearly 100,000 seniors with their housing costs;
- Eliminates the estate tax for all estates valued under \$2 million and allows for a uniform credit of \$99,600, effective January 1, 2023;
- Combines the child and dependent tax credits into one while eliminating the existing cap and increasing the credit from \$180 to \$310 in FY23 and to \$440 in FY24, which will benefit over 565,000 families;
- Increases the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000, which will assist approximately 800,000 renters;
- Raises the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30% to 40% of the federal credit, which will benefit approximately 400,000 taxpayers earning less than \$60,000;
- Allows municipalities to provide up to \$2,000 in property tax reductions for older residents participating in the senior work-off program, which is currently capped at \$1,500; and
- Reduces the tax on short-term capital gains from 12% to 8.5%.

On November 15, Representative Xiarhos joined with his colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass a long-term care oversight bill that will provide enhanced protections for patients as well as expanded training provisions for the industry's workforce to help address persistent staffing shortages at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. He also cast a vote against salary transparency legislation on October 4 which would require most employers to disclose the salary range for open positions on job postings, citing the potential negative cost implications for smaller businesses.

On October 18, Representative Xiarhos voted against a House-sponsored gun bill, saying it will do nothing to reduce crime and will instead have a negative impact on lawful gun owners in the Commonwealth. He also questioned how much the bill will cost to implement and noted that it was strongly opposed not only by the Gun Owners Action League, but also by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, whose members voted unanimously to oppose the bill.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**THE GENERAL COURT**  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

**Steven G. Xiarhos**  
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5th Barnstable District  
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Representative Xiarhos also voted against a supplemental budget proposal on November 8 to allocate \$250 million in additional funding to the state's emergency shelter system to help pay for the recent influx of migrants seeking shelter in Massachusetts. He cited the lack of a plan by the Healey-Driscoll Administration to stem the flow of migrants, which has pushed the state's emergency shelter assistance program to its limits and created a strain on municipal finances as cities and towns struggle to house and educate these new arrivals.

During floor debate on the bill, Representative Xiarhos supported an amendment to prospectively limit future emergency housing services to individuals who have been residents of the Commonwealth for at least one year and can provide documented proof of residency. He said this is a reasonable policy change that will help ensure that long-term residents do not lose out on housing assistance to individuals who are newly arrived from out of state, but the amendment failed to pass.

In 2023, Representative Xiarhos was also recorded in support of several supplemental spending and bond proposals, including bills that:

- Provide universal free school meals for all students to help promote their health and well-being;
- Allow municipalities to continue the use of remote and hybrid meetings, as well as reduced quorum
- requirements for town meetings, until March 31, 2025;
- Authorize a one-year extension of outdoor dining options for restaurants, which will be allowed to
- continue serving cocktails, beer, and wine in conjunction with food takeout orders until April 1, 2024;
- Provide \$175 million in additional municipal grant funding to support several transportation-related
- initiatives such as the Municipal Small Bridge program and the Complete Streets program.

Representative Xiarhos represents the 5th Barnstable District serving approximately 45,000 residents in the towns of Barnstable, Sandwich, and Bourne. He currently serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means, the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Recovery, is the Ranking Minority Member of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs, and serves as the Assistant Ranking Minority Member on the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security.

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# JOIN US!

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## JANUARY OFFICE HOURS

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  - 11:00am-12:00pm
- Bourne Veterans Memorial Community Center
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(617) 722 - 2488

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To schedule a meeting with Rep. Xiarhos,  
please email his Legislative Aide, Stuart,  
at [Stuart.Daniels@mahouse.gov](mailto:Stuart.Daniels@mahouse.gov) or call (617) 722 -2488