

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KARA ROCHELLE**  
WORKING FOR THE PEOPLE OF  
ANSONIA & DERBY

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

I hope you are all doing well and that you have enjoyed your summer. I am humbled and honored to serve as your state representative.

During the legislative session, I advocated for Ansonia and Derby schools, small businesses, seniors, middle and working-class families, non-profits, first responders, infrastructure, health care and more.

Through these efforts, I am proud to have secured historically high funding for our schools, community, and future. The Connecticut General Assembly passed a budget that does not increase taxes, strengthens workforce development, and paves the way for economic growth in our region.

Thank you for reaching out to me over the course of the legislative session to discuss the issues that matter most to you. Please do not hesitate to be in touch throughout the year with your thoughts, ideas and feedback. If you need assistance in anyway, I am always happy to help. You can reach me by email, phone, or during one of my monthly coffee hours. It is an honor to serve you and our community.

All my best,

Kara Rochelle  
State Representative  
104th House District  
Proudly Serving Ansonia & Derby

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END OF LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE FROM  
**KARA ROCHELLE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



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IMPORTANT STATE UPDATE  
**KARA ROCHELLE**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
& VICE CHAIR OF THE  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE



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## MAJOR BUDGET WINS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

### INVESTING IN ANSONIA & DERBY'S RESIDENTS

To help lower the cost of living and enhance the quality of life in our community, I worked to pass legislation that:

- Continues to phase out the state income tax on pensions and annuities – exempting an additional 28% over the next 2 years, which will exempt in total 70% of this income from state taxes for most seniors (June SS PA 21-2)
- Increases money invested in non-profits that serve our community like Team, Inc. and BH Care as well as for services for seniors including Meals on Wheels and aging in place initiatives (SA 21-15)
- Delivers tax relief to nearly 195,000 CT families by increasing the state Earned Income Tax Credit from 23% to 30.5% (June SS PA 21-2)
- Fully funds community college for academics and technical job training – meaning students can work on their associate degrees without incurring student loan debt (June SS PA 21-2)
- Increases funding for our schools, cities, and youth programming (SA 21-15)
- Expands affordable childcare services for parents who are pursuing their education (PA 21-171)
- Funds Fire I training for our local fire departments (June SS PA 21-2)

### RESTARTING THE ECONOMY

As Vice Chair of the Commerce Committee, I led passage of the following initiatives:

- Expansion of the Small Business Express program to bring in more private capital, better supporting small businesses and start-ups (June SS PA 21-2)
- Securing \$5 million in funding to accelerate the expansion of the community college level Advanced Manufacturing Certificate Program to more Connecticut high schools (PA 21-111)
- Reforming the UI tax system to bring down costs for most businesses (PA 21 - 200)
- Providing up to \$10 million in matching grants to a regional economic development entity, allowing smaller communities like Ansonia and Derby to band together to address economic development needs (PA 21-77)
- Establishing a workforce pipeline for people with disabilities (SA 21-10)
- Creating a one-week tax break for restaurants, allowing the sale of alcohol to-go and for delivery, and making outdoor dining a permanent option (PAs 21-37, 21-2)

# THE BUDGET

## NO TAX INCREASES & NEW TAX RELIEF

- Maintains CT's historic Rainy Day Fund of \$3.5 billion
- Pays down \$1.6 billion of past pension debt
- Provides tax breaks for seniors and working families
- Supports non-profits in our community
- Expands affordable health care coverage
- Rejects tax hikes on health insurance policies

### MORE STATE FUNDING FOR ANSONIA & DERBY

I am proud to deliver additional state funding for our community and will continue to work hard for more funding in the future.

	FISCAL YEAR 2021	FISCAL YEAR 2022
<b>Ansonia</b>		
Town Funding (Non-Education Aid)	\$762,461	\$918,593
Education Funding	\$18,049,937	\$18,564,217
<b>Derby</b>		
Town Funding (Non-Education Aid)	\$1,517,331	\$2,202,531
Education Funding	\$8,967,883	\$9,270,526

### NEW MONEY FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS

Special funds for Ansonia students to attend Derby's manufacturing program	\$50,000
Valley Save Our Youth, Ansonia, for Youth Programing	\$150,000
Team, Inc., Derby, for Youth Programing	\$100,000

### BIG INVESTMENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- \$2 million for economic redevelopment of Ansonia Copper & Brass
- \$1 million for environmental clean-up/demo of the Farrell/SHW building
- \$1.2 million for increased frequency of service on the Waterbury Rail Line
- \$1.5 million for improvements to senior housing in Ansonia

**"THE STATE BUDGET INCREASES FUNDING FOR OUR CITIES AND SUPPORTS MIDDLE AND WORKING CLASS FAMILIES. IT INVESTS IN OUR SMALL BUSINESSES, NON-PROFITS, CHILDREN, SENIORS AND COMMUNITY."**



**"AS VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE, I LED THE EFFORT TO EXPAND MANUFACTURING TRAINING TO MEET THE INDUSTRY'S CURRENT AND FUTURE WORKFORCE NEEDS."**



### SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN & TEACHERS

Every student deserves a high-quality education. I proudly supported policy initiatives that:

- Adjust the Education Cost Sharing formula to better serve Ansonia, Derby, and communities like ours with increased funding (June 2021 SS PA 21-2)
- Provide \$12.8 million for the "Right to Read" Act to help school districts – like Ansonia & Derby – with reading curriculum, literacy interventions and coaching (June 2021 SS PA 21-2)
- Lower student loan rates for teachers who work in Ansonia & Derby, and establish a student loan forgiveness program and tax breaks for early childhood educators (PA 21-171) (PA 21-62)
- Expand youth suicide prevention training and require schools and hospitals to equip parents with information about behavioral and mental health services for children (PA 21-116)

### FIGHTING FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

I proudly supported lowering the cost of healthcare while ensuring high-quality coverage by passing bills that:

- Create the CT Covered plan to expand new healthcare coverage to 40,000 additional CT residents and families (June SS PA 21-2)
- Expand healthcare coverage for all children up to age 9 (PA 21-176)
- Control prescription drug costs by ensuring that all prescription drug discounts are passed on to consumers (PA 21-14)
- Limit when a health insurer can make changes to its list of covered drugs, protecting against sudden prescription cost spikes (PA 21-96)
- Continue coverage and access to telehealth (PA 21-9)
- Require health, vision, and dental plans to cover dependents up to age 26 on their parents' insurance plans (PA 21-149)
- Permanently expand workers' compensation benefits for EMS workers, corrections officers, 9-1-1 dispatchers and front-line healthcare workers to cover PTSD (PA 21-107)
- Provide tax exemptions on breastfeeding supplies (June SS PA 21-2)