



Friends & Neighbors,

I hope this message finds you well. It is humbling and an honor to serve as your state representative.

During the 2022 legislative session, we tackled a wide variety of issues and passed a budget that delivers over \$650 million in tax cuts for our hardworking residents, strengthens workforce development, and paves the way for our region's economic growth. I am also proud to have secured record-high funding for our cities and schools. In addition, I supported legislation that helps small businesses, seniors, middle and working-class families, non-profits, first responders, infrastructure initiatives, healthcare and more.

Your engagement in our legislative process makes our democracy stronger. Thank you for reaching out to me over the course of the year to share the issues that matter most to you. Please do not hesitate to stay in touch to share 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 a privilege to serve you and our community.

All my best,

*Kara Rochelle*

State Representative  
104th House District



Scan the QR code for more information on the 2022 Legislative Session



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KARA ROCHELLE**

PROUDLY SERVING ANSONIA & DERBY

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARTFORD, CT  
Permit No. 3937

**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2022**

Representative Kara Rochelle  
Legislative Office Building, Room 4000  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

**CAPITOL  
UPDATE 2022**



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**KARA ROCHELLE**  
VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

- 860-240-8585
- Kara.Rochelle@cga.ct.gov
- housedems.ct.gov/Rochelle
- facebook.com/StateRepKaraRochelle



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & JOBS

- Funds the Community Investment Fund 2030—providing \$875 million over the next 5 years in new, targeted economic development funds to underserved communities, including Ansonia and Derby. The funding from the CIF can be used for two categories of projects:
  - Capital Improvements, including brownfield remediation, affordable housing, water and sewer infrastructure support, pedestrian safety and traffic calming improvements, energy resiliency projects, and land acquisitions and capital projects to construct, rehab or renovate buildings and structures to improve home rehab programs and facilities;
  - Small Business Support programs, including revolving loan programs, microloans, or gap financing for small businesses, as well as startup funds to establish small businesses
- Creates the JobsCT program to allow manufacturing and other targeted industries to earn tax credits for creating new jobs, with twice the credit for creating jobs in Economically Distressed Municipalities and Opportunity Zones—this includes Ansonia and Derby
- Speeds up and expands opportunities for developers to participate in the state’s brownfield remediation program, making it easier to redevelop sites like Ansonia Brass
- Lowers the business tax for unemployment insurance, effectively having the state make the federal loan repayment for the coming year on behalf of businesses



## SUPPORTING SENIORS & FAMILIES

- Lowers the co-pay for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders from 4.5% to 3% so that more older adults can receive long-term care in their own home
- Eliminates pension and annuity income taxes for the majority of retirees
- Increases funding for nutrition programs like Meals on Wheels
- Establishes a Community Ombudsman Program for Home Care to support residents who receive Medicaid home & community-based long-term services
- Sets the Medicaid minimum community spouse resource allowance at \$50,000 to help low- and middle-income residents stay in their home if their spouse enters a nursing home
- Increases funding for local nonprofits like BHCare, Team, Inc. and the Parent-Child Resource Center, serving seniors and families in our community
- Creates a new home visit pilot program for newborns
- Improves the special education reimbursement formula, better prioritizing Ansonia and Derby students
- Improves the immediate and long-term needs of the children’s mental and behavioral health system

# THE BUDGET NO TAX INCREASES & NEW TAX RELIEF

- Lowers car taxes to 32.46 mills in both Ansonia & Derby
- Increases the property tax credit from \$200 to \$300, removes age limits & expands income eligibility
- Makes an additional \$3.6 billion payment towards pension debt
- Establishes a CT Child Tax Credit of \$250 for each child, up to 3 children
- Increases the Earned Income Tax Credit to 41.5%
- Suspends the gas tax and bus fares until December

## MORE FUNDS 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 2022	FISCAL YEAR 2023
<b>ANSONIA</b>		
Town Funding (Non-Education Aid)	\$915,263	\$1,951,765*
Education Funding	\$18,562,372	\$19,070,623
<b>DERBY</b>		
Town Funding (Non-Education Aid)	\$2,199,504	\$2,961,440*
Education Funding	\$9,268,460	\$9,506,359

\* Includes estimated Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA) payments

## MAJOR WINS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Valley Save Our Youth for its Bigger Than Your Block Program, youth violence prevention, and opening a teen center serving Ansonia & Derby	\$145,000
Team, Inc. to support hardworking families, seniors, and community initiatives in the Valley	\$300,000
Team, Inc./Parent-Child Resource Center/Derby Housing Authority building for a new elevator and building upgrades	\$200,000
Route 34 widening project	\$18,000,000
Derby train and multi-modal bus station complex	\$12,000,000
Increased daily service on the Waterbury Rail Line, starting this July	\$1,200,000
Additional progress for the remediation and demolition of the Farrell/SHW building in Ansonia	\$200,000
Ansonia & Derby Fire Companies, payment for each response to calls on Rt. 8	\$500/call

**"I AM WORKING TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC RELIEF AND BRING CRITICAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITY."**

## HEALTHCARE

- Requires health insurance plans to cover early detection and diagnostics for breast and ovarian cancer. I am proud to have co-authored this bill, which is the strongest in the country to detect these cancers early and save lives
- Requires the Office of Health Care Strategy to set annual benchmarks to ensure our health care dollars go towards providing quality care and to keep prescription drug costs down
- Requires health insurers to offer “health enhancement plans” where they encourage individuals to get preventative care – saving money and improving health outcomes
- Continues telehealth options, which have become a popular convenience to access healthcare
- Makes funds available for smoking prevention and cessation programs
- Expands HUSKY to provide health coverage to all children through age 12
- Strengthens CT’s intervention and response to lead poisoning & prevention



## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Toughens car theft penalties, punishing offenders by the number of offenses instead of the value of the car
- Disrupts the catalytic converter theft crisis by strictly regulating the market and creating new penalties for illegal sale and purchase
- Reforms the juvenile system by speeding up arraignments, permitting GPS monitoring for repeat juvenile offenders, and extending hold times by police if an arresting officer is seeking a juvenile detention order
- Establishes a Commission on Community Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention and increases funding for programs for youth
- \$10 million over the next 2 years to fund police task forces to address the illegal gun trade and car thefts
- \$400,000 to the Department of Public Health for gun violence prevention
- \$3.4 million for the Project Longevity Initiative, which is a community-based approach to reduce gun violence
- \$500,000 for police and public safety officer training
- Permits EMS organizations to get a motor vehicle fuel tax refund for fuel used in ambulances
- Invests over \$4 million for Youth Service Bureaus & Juvenile Review Boards
- Invests in the DOT for purchase & installation of advanced wrong-way driving technology for highways
- Increases funding for the Firefighters’ Cancer Relief Fund
- Provides \$500 per call to our volunteer fire companies each time they respond to a call on Route 8