



Friends and Neighbors,

It is a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2024 legislative session is in the rearview mirror, and I want to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the past several months.

We worked hard to deliver a budget that adheres to our fiscal guardrails while still providing hundreds of millions in more funding to our local schools, colleges, nonprofits, childcare and services for our most vulnerable residents. As part of our historic tax cuts, we eliminated taxes on retirement income and reduced taxes for middle and working-class families. This is another important step in making CT affordable for everyone.

We did it by working together – without the fighting you see in Washington.

I'd love to hear from you if you would like more details or have any questions on the initiatives addressed in this legislative update.

All my best,

Kara Rochelle

2024 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Providing Quality Care for Seniors
- Maintaining Historic Tax Cuts
- Making Childcare More Affordable and Accessible
- Maintaining CT's Future Fiscal Integrity
- Bringing State Funds to Ansonia and Derby



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KARA ROCHELLE

PROUDLY SERVING ANSONIA AND DERBY

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2024**

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**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2024**



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OUR BIPARTISAN BUDGET PROTECTS

HISTORIC TAX CUTS

- ✔ \$600 million in middle and working-class tax cuts
- ✔ Increased Earned Income Tax Credit
- ✔ Expanded tax cuts on retirement income for seniors

INVESTS:

- ✔ More funding for K-12 education
- ✔ More funding for senior programs
- ✔ More funding for nonprofits
- ✔ More funding for childcare
- ✔ MORE FUNDING FOR ANSONIA & DERBY

MAKING SENIORS OUR PRIORITY

- (PA 24-39) Expedites Medicaid coverage for home-based care as an alternative to more costly nursing home care.
- (PA 24-39) Creates a new registry system to connect patients to home care providers and created a dashboard to help navigate nursing home options.
- (PA 24-141) Prevents nursing homes from putting more than two patients in a single room.
- (PA 24-141) Requires nursing homes and retirement communities to provide at least 60-90 days' notice of any fee increases and improved transparency around fees.
- (PA 24-141) Strengthens the oversight of negligent nursing homes.

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." - Rep. Kara Rochelle

	FISCAL YEAR 2024	FISCAL YEAR 2025
ANSONIA		
Town Funding	\$21,182,121	\$21,997,415
Education Funding	\$19,422,268	\$20,315,782
DERBY		
Town Funding	\$12,744,394	\$13,574,683
Education Funding	\$9,782,696	\$10,597,864



MAJOR WINS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- \$3.5 million for environmental cleanup and demolition on the Ansonia Copper & Brass site.
- \$6.3 million for 12 new train cars on the Waterbury Rail Line.
- \$750,000 to the City of Ansonia for one-time bailout for the City's forfeiture of Motor Vehicle reimbursement funds.
- \$100,000 for improvements to Gatison Park in Ansonia.
- \$100,000 for the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley to continue year-round teen programming with special teen hours for Ansonia and Derby youth.
- \$12 million secured in bonding for upgrades and improvements to the Derby Train Station.
- \$10 million secured in DOT funds for upgrades and modernization of the Ansonia Train Station.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN & SCHOOLS

- (PA 24-81) Accelerates public education funding by an additional \$150 million for FY25.
- (PA 24-81) Provides help to classroom paraeducators to pay for their health insurance.
- (PAs 24-78 & -91) Improving Childcare:
 - Expands the childcare incubator program
 - Increases coordination to raise private funds
- (PA 24-93) Requires same day parental notification when a child hurts themselves or others.
- (PA 24-81) Caps the amount of money all districts pay to send kids out of district - saving millions of dollars for local schools.
- (PA 24-81) Requires the State Department of Education to provide school districts an estimate of their next year's funding by the end of the current year, to ensure better budgeting.

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE

- (PA 24-27) Establishes a Fallen Officer Fund to provide families of police officers who died in the line of duty with cash assistance and health care coverage.
- (PA 24-32) Requires more thorough testing of firearms in criminal investigations with the use of the federal ballistic database.
- (PA 22-146) Provides \$1.5 million in annual funding for volunteer fire companies that respond to calls on state highways, like Route 8.
- (PA 24-14) Made it easier for veterans to earn a Q license endorsement to join fire departments.
- (PA 24-65) Toughens penalties for killing a police dog.
- (PA 24-56) Protects personal information of special victims like minors and victims of abuse from public disclosures.
- (PA 24-148) Requires video monitoring of ballot drop boxes.
- (PA 24-148) Made it a crime to harass election workers.

