



Friends and Neighbors,

It is a privilege and honor to serve as your state representative. The 2026 legislative session has completed and I want to take a moment to check in and share some highlights from the last several months.

We worked hard to deliver hundreds of millions of dollars in additional education and town funding, cracked down on price gouging by banning surveillance pricing on groceries, medicine, and other goods, and passed significant and wide-ranging legislation to protect and support our first responders, teachers, healthcare workers, construction workers, and many other workers across the state. These initiatives strengthen our communities, support hardworking families, and help make Connecticut a more affordable place to live and raise a family.

We accomplished all of this while maintaining a balanced budget and continuing to pay down past pension debt, freeing up more funds to invest in critical services.

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

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7TH, 10AM-2PM

FREE & OPEN TO ALL

Warsaw Park, 119 Pulaski Hwy, Ansonia

2026 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Invested Hundreds of Millions of Dollars in New Education Funding and Town Aid
- Cracked Down on Price Gouging by Banning Surveillance Pricing on Groceries, Medicine & Other Goods
- Wide-ranging Legislation to Protect, Support, and Invest in Workers
- More State Funds for Ansonia and Derby



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KARA ROCHELLE

PROUDLY SERVING ANSONIA AND DERBY

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

**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**

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

**CAPITOL
UPDATE 2026**



FROM STATE REPRESENTATIVE
KARA ROCHELLE
PROUDLY SERVING ANSONIA AND DERBY



860-240-8585



Kara.Rochelle@cga.ct.gov



housedems.ct.gov/Rochelle



facebook.com/StateRepKaraRochelle



A BALANCED BUDGET

AND MORE

INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

THANKS TO SOUND BUDGETING AND STEADY LEADERSHIP, WE DELIVERED:

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

DELIVERING FOR WORKERS & CONSUMERS

- Financially protected healthcare workers and teachers if they get assaulted on the job by providing 100% workman's compensation (PA 26-12)
- Protected building trades worker wages by holding contractors legally accountable if their subcontractors engage in wage theft, a top priority for the construction industry (PA 26-12)
- Streamlined the process for paraeducators to collect unemployment for summer months (PA 26-12)
- Strengthened worker protections in warehouse distribution centers (PA 26-1)
- Guaranteed adequate break time for mothers to express breast milk during the workday (PA 26-12)
- Banned surveillance pricing on most delivery apps and in stores, stopping big corporations from using your personal data to price gouge on groceries, medicine, and more (PA 26-64)
- Expanded consumer rights to delete your data from data brokers and establishes a state operated centralized "one click delete" website (PA 26-64)
- Required private insurance to cover: PANS/PANDAS, athletic prosthetics, scalp cooling, and expanded infertility diagnosis and treatment (PA 26-33)
- Prohibited companies from selling your precise geolocation data & strengthened protections against facial recognition technology (PA 26-64)

INVESTING IN OUR KIDS

- **\$190 million** in additional direct support for education instruction in schools (PA 26-68)
- **\$12 million** to establish universal free school breakfast programs across the state, and make school lunch free for those previously on reduced-cost lunch – saving families money (PA 26-68)
- Deposited **\$300 million** into the Early Childhood Education Endowment, focusing on expanding affordable childcare. Once fully funded, all households making less than 100k will have free childcare, and no family will pay more than 7% towards childcare (PA 26-68)
- Made school supplies tax-free, including backpacks, lunchboxes, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons, rulers, and paper (PA 26-68)
- Expanded grants for successful local special education programs (SB 1)
- Newly launched literacy interventions and concentrated tutoring (SB 1)
- Expanded the Aspiring Educators Scholarship Program (SB 1)

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	FISCAL YEAR 2026	FISCAL YEAR 2027
ANSONIA				
Total Town Funding	\$21,535,812	\$22,230,527	\$22,834,376	\$27,306,162
Education Funding	\$19,542,091	\$20,435,849	\$21,706,819	\$22,641,424
DERBY				
Total Town Funding	\$13,002,724	\$13,711,860	\$15,132,761	\$15,945,628
Education Funding	\$9,911,861	\$10,735,041	\$11,298,181	\$11,732,479

MAJOR WINS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- **\$4,000,000** for the removal and management of contaminated sediments from the Kinneytown Dam
- **\$3,250,000** in bail-out funds for the City of Ansonia to help navigate through the current budget crisis
- **\$789,000** for sidewalk improvements around the Ansonia Middle School, connecting to downtown, and for segment 8 of the Ansonia Riverwalk
- **\$555,385** for the Derby Greenway SMART Lighting and Security Project
- **\$500,000 (est.)** for a land conveyance from the state for Derby, which is necessary for downtown redevelopment. The cost will be picked up by the Connecticut Municipal Redevelopment Authority, not Derby taxpayers
- **\$250,000** for a planning grant to support the development of the 30-acre Fountain Lake Industrial Park in Derby
- **\$100,000** for the Boys & Girls Club of the Lower Naugatuck Valley to continue free teen programming with special teen hours for Ansonia and Derby youth
- **\$10,000** to Life, Health, and Wellness INC for youth summer STEM programming in Ansonia
- **\$5,000** for Bodhi Tree Gardens in Ansonia to install a greenhouse and improve their farmstand to increase production



Rep. Rochelle proudly founded and co-chairs the Legislature's Blue Collar Caucus



Railroad spike ceremony marking the groundbreaking for Ansonia & Derby train station upgrades

SENIORS & VETERANS

- Created a family caregiver tax credit for residents caring for a loved one (PA 26-68)
- Required stronger background checks for homemakers and companion workers (PA 26-100)
- Required assisted living facilities to give 60 days' notice before any fee increases (PA 26-74)
- Ensured residential care residents can set up cameras in their rooms to stay connected with family and monitor their care (PA 26-28)
- Required homemaker companions (the workers who help seniors with cooking, dressing, and companionship in their homes) to get 8 hours of annual training on how to best help seniors with dementia, identifying and reporting abuse and neglect, and home safety (PA 26-50)
- Strengthened regulations around private equity in nursing homes, protecting them from predatory investment practices or sudden closures (PA 26-103)
- Made buses free for veterans by having the VA distribute CTtransit bus passes to Connecticut veterans (PA 26-21)
- Created a dental care program for thousands of eligible veterans in our state to cover up to \$3,000 in costs annually (PA 26-35)
- Waived fees on veterans' drivers' licenses and ID cards and extended deadlines for car registrations when they relocate to Connecticut (PA 26-35)
- Cracked down on scammers who go after veterans pretending to be licensed claim agents or attorneys (PA 26-35)

FIRST RESPONDERS & PUBLIC SAFETY

- Created a homebuyer's assistance program for police, fire, and EMS workers (PA 26-12)
- Established tuition fee waivers at state colleges and community colleges for police, fire, EMS and National Guard workers (PA 26-12)
- Established a grant for junior firefighters programs in volunteer fire departments (PA 26-12)
- Increased funding to the regional fire training schools, to offer free and reduced cost classes and live burn training (PA 26-68)
- Expanded five years of state health insurance to the families of volunteer firefighters, corrections officers, and state marshals who lose their life in the line of duty, a protection that is already provided for police officers & career firefighters (PA 26-12)
- Suspended licenses for people who continue to illegally pass school buses (PA 26-95)
- Strengthened penalties for driving offenses in work zones (PA 26-120)
- Doubled the fine for illegal mufflers and exhaust pipes that are excessively loud or mimic gunfire (PA 26-63)
- Strengthened penalties for gift card scams (PA 26-130)