

**Hey North Stamford,
Rachel Khanna gets us**

To the editor,

I have lived in North Stamford in the 149th District of the state House of Representatives for 34 years. For those unfamiliar with our district, North Stamford shares the 149th with a section of Westover and all of backcountry Greenwich. Stamford voters comprise 36 per cent of the 149th's voters.

For decades, our district has been represented by Republicans from Greenwich who focused almost exclusively on the priorities of Greenwich residents. And because North Stamford resembles backcountry Greenwich (in a poorer cousin kind of way), the assumption has been that our concerns were the same.

Our GOP representatives never took the time to learn that North Stamford is very different from North Greenwich — though we do share some overarching issues. This has finally changed with the election of Rachel Khanna as our representative. For the first time, the Stamford voters in the 149th feel heard.

Khanna understands that while our community may look suburban, North Stamford and Westover are neighborhoods within a large city, meaning big-city challenges. She has learned about our needs and concerns by attending local events, speaking with constituents on her listening tours, door-knocking in Stamford neighborhoods, and responding to constituent requests.

She understands that in a large and diverse city ...

- We need support from the state to help families and students thrive. Khanna helped pass the state's largest-ever investment in education and support for children and families, including reduced-cost childcare and mental health resources.

- We recognize that financially disadvantaged children need help without being stigmatized. Rachel Khanna helped pass free school lunches for all students.

- Underserved groups must get the support they need to build our community. Khanna brought home funds for various non-profits, including our libraries and the Boys and Girls Club.

- With a growing student population, we need state resources to renovate our aging school buildings. Khanna secured more than \$51 million to rebuild Roxbury School.

- We have concerns about our aging infrastructure. Rachel helped obtain funding to fix our roads and bridges.

- We need to create and preserve green space within Stamford's inner city. Rachel helped bring funding to improve Mill River Park in downtown Stamford.

These are just a few of Khanna's accomplishments during her first term. Others include protecting women's reproductive health, strengthening gun laws and lowering state income taxes.

Unlike her GOP predecessors, Khanna recognizes and responds to all her constituents. That's why I am voting to reelect Rachel Khanna to represent the 149th.

Michelle Abt is a longtime resident of Stamford and a member of the Democratic City Committee